

Your ref: TR010034
Our Ref: HE551473-BBA-OSI-A57_ML_SCHEME-
LN-ZM-000001

National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Andrew Dawson
Senior Project Manager
National Highways
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

1 November 2021

Dear Mr Cowperthwaite,

A57 Link Roads scheme
Development Consent Order application reference: TR010034
The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Thank you for your letter under Rule 6 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 dated 19 October 2021. In advance of the Preliminary Meeting in respect of the application for the A57 Link Roads Order (the Application), this letter provides the response of National Highways to matters raised in the Examining Authority's (ExA) invitation to the Preliminary Meeting.

Name of the Applicant

The application was submitted in the name of Highways England. Since the application was submitted the formal name of the applicant has changed from Highways England to National Highways, following the change of company name from Highways England Company Limited to National Highways Limited on 8 September 2021. The company number and registered address remain the same.

We propose to update the relevant references in the draft DCO and the application documents in due course as they are revised through examination, but, in general, references in the application documents to Highways England as applicant should be taken as referring to National Highways.

Annex E – Statements of Common Ground

Draft Statements of Common Ground were submitted as part of the application relating to the following:

- Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
- High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council
- Transport for Greater Manchester



Since acceptance of the Application, National Highways has been working towards producing Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with a number of organisations in relation to the Scheme. These include:

Peak District National Park Authority
Environment Agency
Natural England

BT Open Reach
Cadent Gas
Electricity North West
National Grid
United Utilities

We note that in point A of Annex E, reference is made to an SoCG with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). We would note, however, that GMCA is made up of the ten Greater Manchester Councils and the Mayor. The GMCA is, in general, staffed by secondees from the boroughs, and is controlled by 33 elected members drawn from those boroughs. The GMCA has no statutory planning powers and responsibility for ensuring that development comes forward in accordance with the emerging Places for Everyone joint development plan remains with the nine boroughs within Greater Manchester, within their own jurisdictional boundaries.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (TMBC) is the local planning authority responsible for development plan issues within its boundaries, including Places for Everyone. Whilst this is a strategic scheme, we would expect the revised SoCG with TMBC to deal with matters in the emerging Places for Everyone joint development plan, along with TMBC's other relevant planning policy.

We are not aware that GMCA has any powers or specific role related to the other items on the list of issues to include in the SoCG identified under point A of Annex E, with the exception of strategic transport matters. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is responsible for investments in improving transport services and facilities within Manchester and is the executive arm of the GMCA. The GMCA funds and makes policies for TfGM. As the Examining Authority will have noted, we have already drafted and submitted a draft SoCG with TfGM and, given the above, we consider that TfGM is the appropriate party within the GMCA umbrella to continue an SoCG with in relation to this strategic transport scheme.

With regards to point B of Annex E, we note that an SoCG has been requested with United Utilities, to cover the same issues as that covered by the SoCG with the Environment Agency. Given that the main issue of concern for United Utilities with regards to the scheme, the Mottram Longdendale Aqueduct, is identified under point E, Statutory Undertakers, and that few of the issues identified under point B are relevant to the business of United Utilities, we consider that the SoCG with United Utilities would be best dealt with under point E of Annex E.



With regards to Historic England, we note that under point D an SoCG has been requested. However given the response from Historic England in its relevant representation (AS-001) which signs off on those aspects to be covered by an SoCG and the clear position set out in that relevant representation, we question the need for a SoCG and what additional purpose this would serve.

Accompanied Site Inspection

We consider that all parts of the Scheme can be viewed from publicly accessible land, and thus we do not consider that an Accompanied Site Inspection will be required.

Examination Timetable

We note that the Examining Authority's first written questions are due for publication on Friday 17 December 2021. We also note that the answers to the first written questions are due to be submitted on Friday 14 January 2022. Given the Christmas and New Year holiday season forms a significant part of this period, National Highways would like to request that the first written questions are published earlier in the timetable, ideally on Friday 10 December 2021. An earlier publication of the first written questions would give National Highways as applicant, and other parties to whom questions will no doubt be addressed, slightly more time to consider the questions and prepare responses without unduly affecting the holiday period which this year will hopefully be less interrupted by external issues.

In addition, we note that the Examining Authority has indicated that comments on the submissions made at Deadlines 1 and 2 are due on Wednesday 26 January 2022. In particular, we note that Deadline 2, on 14 January 2022, includes the deadline for receipt of written representations. Given the number of relevant representations for the Scheme totals 911, National Highways anticipates that the number of responses to the deadline for written representations may be of a similar magnitude and would therefore wish to request that the deadline for comments on written representations be extended to be able to provide as comprehensive a response as possible. National Highways respectfully suggests that responses to the written representations are provided on 4 February 2022, to coincide with the submission of the Applicant's updated material also due at that deadline and prior to the Examining Authority issuing its second written questions.

Venue for in-person or hybrid hearings

We would be grateful if the Examining Authority could confirm its thoughts on the preferred venue for any in person or hybrid hearings.

Proposed Attendees at Preliminary Meeting

National Highways will naturally be attending the Preliminary Meeting on Tuesday 16 November 2021 and, where required, Wednesday 17 November, and proposes to address the ExA on the matters set out in this letter. The list of proposed attendees at the Preliminary Meeting on behalf of National Highways is enclosed at Annex 1.



National Highways will also naturally be attending the Open Floor Hearing 1 on Thursday 18 November, and where required, Friday 19 November. The proposed list of attendees for each meeting is listed in Annex 1 to this letter.

National Highways will also be in attendance at all hearings listed at Annex A of the Rule 6 letter. Following receipt of the agendas for each hearing, National Highways England will produce a list of proposed speakers and present this to the ExA ahead of the relevant hearing.

Submission of updated documents

In response to the section 51 advice received from the Planning Inspectorate we proposed to submit revised documents to the Examining Authority prior to the Preliminary Meeting. These will be accompanied by an explanation of the changes.

If you require any further information on the above, please do not hesitate to contact Scheme Project Manager, Emma Simpson, or I on the following email address:

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Andrew Dawson
Senior Project Manager
A57 Link Roads

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Annex 1 – Attendees at Preliminary Meeting and Open Floor Hearing 1

Attendee	Role	Organisation	Email address	Telephone number	PM/OFH
Andrew Dawson	Senior Project Manager	National Highways	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	PM/OFH
Emma Simpson	Project Manager	National Highways	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	PM/OFH
Vicky Fowler	Lead Legal Advisor	Gowling WLG	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	PM/OFH
Richard Thurling	Legal Advisor	Gowling WLG	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	PM/OFH
Jon Barker	DCO Manager (Examination)	Balfour Beatty Atkins	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	PM/OFH
Dr Liz Young	Environmental Lead	Balfour Beatty Atkins	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	OFH
Matthew Robinson	Project Manager	Balfour Beatty Atkins	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Steve Katesmark	Transport Lead	Balfour Beatty Atkins			OFH