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To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref: TR010034

Date: 16 December 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 13, 16 and 17

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A57 Link Roads

I write to advise you of procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA) about events in the Examination Timetable from 8 to 11 February 2022. The Examination Timetable is at Annex A of my letter dated 19 November 2021:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/TR010034-000667>

Notification of hearings

The ExA has decided to announce the dates, times, and places of hearings to be held in February 2022.

Date	Hearing	Time
Tuesday, 8 February 2022 and, if required, Friday, 11 February 2022	Issue Specific Hearing 1 Draft Development Consent Order	10.00am (Arrangements Conference 9.30am)
Tuesday, 8 February 2022 and, if required, Friday, 11 February 2022	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant's case Crown interests, Statutory Undertakers and Special Category Land issues Individual objections and issues Other matters	2.30pm (Arrangements Conference 2.00pm)
Tuesday 8, February 2022	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual objections and issues Other matters	6.30pm (Arrangements Conference 6.00pm)

Date	Hearing	Time
Wednesday 9, February 2022 Thursday 10, February 2022 and, if required, Friday 11, February 2022	Issue Specific Hearing 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport networks and traffic, alternatives, access, severance, walkers, cyclists, and horse riders • Green belt • Landscape and visual • The historic environment • Air quality • Climate change • Noise and vibration • Soils, ground conditions, materials, and waste • The water environment, drainage, flood risk assessment, Water Frameworks Directive • Biodiversity, ecological and geological conservation • Land use, social and economic, human health • Other environmental topics 	10.00am (Arrangements Conference 9.30am)
Wednesday 9, February 2022	Open Floor Hearing 2	6.30pm (Arrangements Conference 6.00pm)

Considering ongoing public health concerns related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), the ExA has looked carefully into the possibility of the February hearings being held in person. However, given the current situation, particularly in relation to the Omicron variant, the ExA has concluded that it will be using virtual methods for those hearings. Please refer to the following document for more guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>

This guidance is updated periodically to align with the most up to date Government guidance relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19). On that basis the ExA will remain flexible and has a preference to hold the hearings scheduled for April in person, subject to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation at that time.

Purpose of the hearings

Issue Specific Hearings provide an opportunity for the ExA to examine specific issues relating to the application and to invite parties to make oral representations about those issues. They are held in accordance with Section 91 of the PA2008.

Compulsory Acquisition Hearings provide an opportunity for the ExA to examine the Applicants' case for Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession and to invite Affected Persons and the Applicant to make oral representations about those matters. They are held in accordance with Section 92 of the PA2008.

Open Floor Hearings give parties an opportunity to make an oral representation about the application. They are held in accordance with Section 93 of the PA2008.

Opportunities to make oral representations are subject to the ExA's powers of control over the conduct of the hearings.

Hearings not being required

Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 will only be held if, by **Wednesday, 26 January 2022**, the ExA has received a request from an Affected Person to be heard at that hearing rather than at Compulsory Hearing 1.

Open Floor Hearing 2 will only be held if, by **Wednesday, 26 January 2022**, the ExA has received a request from an Interested Party to be heard at that hearing.

Confirmation of whether Open Floor Hearing 2 and Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 are required will be provided when the hearing agendas are published, no later than **Monday, 31 January 2022**.

"If required" dates are notified for Issue Specific Hearing 1, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1, Issue Specific Hearing 2 and Open Floor Hearing 2. Confirmation of any dates not being required will be provided during the relevant hearing before it closes.

Notification of any dates not being required will be published as soon as is practicable on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a57-link-roads-previously-known-as-trans-pennine-upgrade-programme>

Attendance at the hearings

If you would like to observe a hearing, then you will be able to access a public livestream on the National Infrastructure Planning website at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a57-link-roads-previously-known-as-trans-pennine-upgrade-programme>

A recording of each hearing will be published on the website as soon as is practicable after each hearing.

You can register a request to make an oral representation at a hearing. This will need to be submitted to the Case Team by **Wednesday, 26 January 2022**. Please include a description of what you would like to make an oral submission about; and confirmation that your oral submission will not repeat a submission that you have made previously, either in writing or orally. If you would like to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, then please provide the relevant plot number. Requests can be registered by email or post using the contact details at the top of this letter, or by using the "Make a submission" tab on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a57-link-roads-previously-known-as-trans-pennine-upgrade-programme>

The ExA may choose not to accommodate your request if it feels that the issues that you wish to raise do not need to be tested orally.

Pre-registration for hearings is required for the Case Team to provide you with a joining link or telephone number for the hearing and will assist the management of the hearings.

The agendas of the hearings, and confirmation of whether Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 or Open Floor Hearing 2 or are required, will be published to the National Infrastructure Planning website no later than **Monday, 31 January 2022**:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-west/a57-link-roads-previously-known-as-trans-pennine-upgrade-programme>

If any of the hearings are no longer required, reasonable notice will be provided to Interested Parties of our decision to cancel them.

Further information on how to participate in hearings using virtual methods is provided in Advice Note 8.6:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-8-6-virtual-examination-events/>

Accompanied Site Inspection

The ExA has considered all submissions and has decided not to hold an Accompanied Site Inspection during 8 to 11 February 2022.

The ExA has received a submission from Mr Bagshaw [[REP1-053](#)] suggesting an Accompanied Site Inspection to view the capacity, character and features of routes for the diversion of traffic in Glossopdale from the A57. The ExA has considered that submission and, noting that public access is available to those locations, is satisfied that those matters can be addressed during an Unaccompanied Site Inspection and, if it considers necessary, an Issue Specific Hearing.

The ExA has made a procedural decision to request Mr Bagshaw to provide a written submission that provides detail of his concerns regarding the diversion of traffic in Glossopdale from the A57. Please could this be submitted for Deadline 2, on Friday, 14 January 2022.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you have any questions about this letter.

In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to work with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Cowperthwaite

Stuart Cowperthwaite, Lead Member of the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
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