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To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref: TR010034

Date: 2 March 2022

Dear Sir/ Madam

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

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 5 to 7 April 2022. The Examination Timetable is at Annex A of my letter dated 19 November 2021:

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

The National Infrastructure Planning website referred to in this letter is at:

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

Notification of hearings

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

Date	Hearing	Time
Tuesday, 5 April 2022 Wednesday, 6 April 2022 and, if required, Thursday, 7 April 2022	Issue Specific Hearing 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport networks and traffic • Peak District National Park • Water environment, drainage, and flood risk assessment • Air quality • Climate change • Other environmental matters 	10.00am (Arrangements Conference 9.30am)

Date	Hearing	Time
Wednesday, 6 April 2022 and, if required, Thursday, 7 April 2022	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual objections, issues, and voluntary agreements • Whether the rights sought are legitimate, proportionate, and necessary • Crown interests, Statutory Undertakers and Special Category Land issues • Other compulsory acquisition or temporary possession matters 	1.30pm (Arrangements Conference 1.00pm)
Wednesday, 6 April 2022 and, if required, Thursday, 7 April 2022	Issue Specific Hearing 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Development Consent Order 	3.30pm (Arrangements Conference 3.00pm)

Due to the lifting of legal restrictions to control COVID-19, the ExA has decided to hold these hearings at:

Atholl and Linlithgow Suites, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Manchester – Piccadilly, One Piccadilly Place, 1 Auburn Street, Manchester, M1 3DG.

This is referred to in this letter as the physical venue.

The ExA considers that there remains a need to hold these events in a way that is safe and fair to all and therefore **parties will also be able to participate using Microsoft Teams and by telephone.**

More information on how to participate in hearings using Microsoft Teams and by telephone is provided in Advice Note 8.6:

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

The physical venue has a limited capacity. Priority for attending in person at the physical venue will be given to parties who want to make an oral submission but are not able to attend using Microsoft Teams or by telephone. The ExA emphasises that there will be no difference in the weight to be attached to, or the treatment of, the evidence presented, whether given orally using Microsoft Teams, by telephone, in person at the physical venue, or in writing after the hearings.

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.

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

Pre-registration for parties wanting to make an oral representation is required for us to provide you with a joining link or telephone number if you attend using Microsoft Teams or telephone and for us to manage arrangements at the physical venue. Pre-registration is also required for any parties wanting to attend in person at the physical venue, due to the limited capacity.

Requests to register need to be submitted by **Wednesday, 23 March 2022**. They need to be made 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.

Your request will need to set out:

- each hearing that you want to register for
- each hearing that you want to make an oral representation to, and what you want to raise
- whether you prefer to attend using Microsoft Teams, by telephone, or whether you prefer to attend in person at the physical venue
- if you prefer to attend in person at the physical venue, your reasons for that and if there any reasons why you can't attend using Microsoft Teams and/or by telephone

The ExA may not accommodate your request if it does not address these points or if the ExA feels that the issues that you want to raise do not need to be tested orally.

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

The agendas for the hearings will set out which parties will be invited to make an oral representation, which parties will be invited to attend using Microsoft Teams or by telephone, and which parties will be invited to attend in person at the physical venue. All parties will have the options of accessing the public livestream and making a written submission.

Agendas and any changes to the arrangements

The agendas for the hearings will be published to the National Infrastructure Planning website no later than **Monday, 28 March 2022**.

The COVID-19 situation may change before the hearings are held. If public health concerns result in the ExA deciding not to hold the hearings at the physical venue, then it will only hold the hearings using Microsoft Teams and by telephone.

Reasonable notice will be provided to Interested Parties if the ExA decides that any of the hearings are no longer required, or if they will not be held at the physical venue.

"If required" dates are notified for Issue Specific Hearing 3, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 and Issue Specific Hearing 4. Confirmation of any dates not being required will be provided during the relevant hearing before it closes.

Notification of any updates or changes to the arrangements will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as is practicable.

Request for an Accompanied Site Inspection by Sharefirst My Journey to School

Sharefirst My Journey to School [[REP2-085](#)] and [[REP4-014](#)] suggested an Accompanied Site Inspection to Dinting. The ExA is grateful for the detail provided on the reasons, locations and timings suggested for a visit.

Annex C of my letter dated 19 October 2021 [[PD-006](#)] notes that "*Accompanied Site Inspections will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. The purpose of Accompanied Site Inspections is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the Proposed Development will be entertained during an Accompanied Site Inspection.*"

The ExA has carefully considered the request and notes that public access is available to the suggested locations. **The ExA has therefore decided to consider the matters raised by Sharefirst My Journey to School during an Unaccompanied Site Inspection and does not require an Accompanied Site Inspection.**

Sharefirst My Journey to School [[REP4-014](#)] referred to a wish to bring "*Community Voice*" to the Examination. The ExA is keen to continue to hear from the community and add to its understanding of local issues. The ExA continues to encourage Interested Parties to make written submissions to the Examination to set out any information that has not yet been submitted. Interested Parties may also wish to make a request to register to make an oral representation at Issue Specific Hearing 3, as set out earlier in this letter.

Request for an Accompanied Site Inspection by CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire

CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire [[REP3-033](#)] suggested a site inspection of private land in the pastures south of Mottram Old Hall to understand the impacts of the Proposed Development, including the proposed eastern portal and dual carriageway. Future views are noted from a bridleway and by drivers. The Applicant is quoted as saying that there would be no views from sensitive receptors.

The ExA has decided to request more information on the matters raised by CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire in the Second Written Questions before deciding if the suggested Accompanied Site Inspection should be carried out.

Request for an Open Floor Hearing on behalf of Robert Largan MP

Jamie Douglas on behalf of Robert Largan MP [[REP4-022](#)] requested an Open Floor Hearing during week commencing 4 April 2022. The Examination timetable is at Annex A of my letter dated 19 November 2021 [[PD-007](#)]. An Open Floor Hearing was held on 18 November 2021. 1 December 2021 was the deadline for notification of a wish to speak at another Open Floor Hearing. No notifications were received for that deadline and no more dates have been reserved for an Open Floor Hearing.

The ExA suggests that Robert Largan MP makes a request to register to make an oral representation at Issue Specific Hearing 3. Details of how to make a request are provided in this letter and apply to all Interested Parties.

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 on the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Cowperthwaite

Stuart Cowperthwaite, Lead Member of the Examining Authority

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