



National Infrastructure Planning
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To: All Interested Parties

Our Ref: TR010034

Date: 11 April 2022

Dear Sir / Madam

The Planning Act 2008 – Section 89(3) and 89(4) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8(3)

Application by National Highways (formerly Highways England) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A57 Link Roads

I write to advise you of a procedural decision made by the Examining Authority (ExA) to vary the Examination timetable that was provided in Annex A of my letter of 19 November 2021:

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

During Issue Specific Hearing 3 [[EV-058](#)] the Applicant requested that Deadline 10 be delayed a few days from Tuesday 3 May 2022 to provide more time for parties to comment on submissions for Deadline 9 that are required by Wednesday 27 April 2022. The Applicant noted the potential for substantial submissions at Deadline 9 and that there will be a bank holiday on Monday 2 May 2022.

Although not specifically included in the timetable, the ExA left time between Deadline 10 and the latest date for the completion of the Examination in case it wishes to make a request for further information under Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

The ExA has considered the Applicant's request, the progress made during the Examination, the matters still under discussion between parties, and whether the ExA is likely to require further information after Deadline 10. Following that, **the ExA has made a procedural decision to vary the Examination timetable by:**

- **Delaying Deadline 10 to Thursday 5 May 2022**
- **Adding an Item for the publication of the ExA's Third Written Questions on Friday 6 May 2022**
- **Adding Deadline 11 on Wednesday 11 May 2022 for responses to the ExA's Third Written Questions**
- **Adding Deadline 12 on Monday 16 May 2022 for comments on submissions for Deadline 11**

- **Amending the final Item to clarify that the ExA will not close the Examination before 16 May 2022**

The ExA's Third Written Questions are introduced as the ExA has decided that it will require further information after Deadline 10. The ExA will advise on what further information is requested when the questions are published. The ExA will take account of the time available for responses to the questions and for comments on those responses when it finalises the questions.

The timetable for the rest of the Examination is set out below (variations to Matter(s) and Date(s) from my letter of 19 November 2021 are underlined):

Item	Matter(s)	Date(s)
18.	<p>Deadline 8</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written summaries of oral submissions at hearings • post-hearing submissions requested by the ExA • comments on submissions for Deadline 7 	Wednesday 13 April 2022
19.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ExA's schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order 	No later than Wednesday 20 April 2022
20.	<p>Deadline 9</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on the ExA's schedule of changes to the draft Development Consent Order • comments on the Report on Implications for European Sites (if required) • comments on submissions for Deadline 8 • the Applicant's final: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Book of Reference ○ Statement of Reasons ○ Schedule of progress regarding Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession, voluntary agreements, and objections ○ Summary of progress in securing other consents ○ Tracker identifying the latest versions of the Applicant's submission documents • final updates to Statements of Common Ground requested by the ExA 	Wednesday 27 April 2022

Item	Matter(s)	Date(s)
21.	Deadline 10 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments on submissions for Deadline 9 	<u>Thursday 5 May 2022</u>
22.	<u>Publication of:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>the ExA's Third Written Questions</u> 	<u>Friday 6 May 2022</u>
23.	<u>Deadline 11</u> For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>responses to the ExA's Third Written Questions</u> 	<u>Wednesday 11 May 2022</u>
24.	<u>Deadline 12</u> For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>comments on submissions for Deadline 11</u> 	<u>Monday 16 May 2022</u>
25.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting. <u>The ExA will not close the Examination before Monday 16 May 2022.</u> Notification will be provided of the close of the Examination.	Examination to be completed <u>on Monday 16 May 2022</u>

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is 11:59pm on the relevant deadline date. Submissions will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the deadlines:

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

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

Yours faithfully

Stuart Cowperthwaite

Stuart Cowperthwaite, Lead Member of the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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