



# Department for Transport

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To: National Highways, Natural  
England, National Grid Electricity  
Transmission PLC, United Utilities  
PLC, Greater Manchester  
Combined Authority

Date: 2 September 2022

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

Application by National Highways (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting development consent to construct a new offline bypass of dual carriageway road connecting the M67 Junction 4 to A57T Mottram Moor Junction, a new offline bypass of single carriageway connecting the A57T Mottram Moor to the A57 Woolley Bridge, two new junctions and five new structures, detrunking of the A57T from the M67 Junction 4 to Mottram Back Moor Junction, and safety measures and improvements to the A57 from Mottram Moor Junction to Woolley Lane Junction.

### **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT, UNITED UTILITIES PLC, NATURAL ENGLAND, NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC, GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY**

The Examining Authority submitted on 16 August 2022 a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings on the above application to the Secretary of State for Transport (“the Secretary of State”). In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has until 16 November 2022 to make a decision on the application. The Secretary of State seeks further clarification and information from the Applicant and others on the following matters.

#### **1. Request for an update on outstanding Protective Provisions**

[National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC Protective Provisions](#)

The Secretary of State notes that at the close of the Examination Protective Provisions had been agreed subject to a legal agreement being signed and that a side agreement was in an advanced form [[REP8-021](#)] and [[REP12-011](#)]. Further, it is noted that discussions were ongoing to establish a Deed of Easement/Wayleave Agreement [[REP9-019](#)]. The **Applicant** and **National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC** are asked to provide an update on the current position.

#### United Utilities PLC Protective Provisions

The Secretary of State notes at the close of the Examination an agreement on the wording of the Protective Provisions and a side agreement had not been reached [[REP12-016](#)].

**The Applicant and United Utilities PLC** are asked to confirm whether agreement has been reached on the Protective Provisions and side agreement and if no agreement has been reached, the parties are to provide an update on the current position. If an agreement has been reached, the parties are asked to provide the updated version of the agreed Protective Provisions.

### **2. Request for an update from the Applicant and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority regarding the status of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan**

Noting that a new Clean Air Plan is currently being developed, the Secretary of State requests an update from the **Applicant and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority** regarding the status of the proposed new Clean Air Plan, the expected date of implementation of the proposed Clean Air Zone and whether the latest proposals for the Zone include both the A57T and A628 in the location of the Proposed Development.

Further, in light of the latest status of the Clean Air Plan, the Secretary of State invites the **Applicant** to comment on whether its position has changed from the response it gave to Question 7.4 of the Examining Authority's first written questions [[REP2-021](#)].

### **3. Request for an update from the Applicant and Natural England regarding protected species licences**

The Secretary of State notes from the Statement of Common Ground between the Applicant and Natural England [[REP10-006](#)] that bats could be affected by the Proposed Development and that the Consents and Agreements Position Statement [[REP12-004](#)] states that a Draft Licence has been submitted to Natural England for review and comment in respect of badgers. The Secretary of State requests an update from the **Applicant** and **Natural England** regarding the progress of discussions on these issues and in particular on any letters of 'no impediment' together with copies if these have been issued.

**4. Request for an update from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on the progress of the emerging 'Places for Everyone' (PfE) Joint Development Plan Document**

The Secretary of State refers to the response of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to question 2.1 in the Examining Authority's second written questions [[REP6-037](#)]. The Secretary of State requests an update from **the Greater Manchester Combined Authority** as to the current position of the relevant draft policies within the Joint Development Plan.

**The deadline for any response is 14 September 2022.**

Responses to the matters outlined in this letter are best submitted by email to: [A57LinkRoads@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A57LinkRoads@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, or difficulty in submitting a response by email, please inform the Case Team Tel 0303 444 5000.

The responses will be published on the project page for the A57 Link Roads DCO application on the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after the above deadlines at:

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

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the A57 Link Roads, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Kate Atkins  
Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit