

PINS ref: TR010054

Planning Inspectorate Case Team M54/M6  
The Planning Inspectorate  
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14 December 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

### **M54 TO M6 LINK ROAD SCHEME - JANUARY 2021 HEARINGS**

We refer to the Examining Authority's invitation to submit representations in respect of the proposed hearings to consider the changes to the DCO application in January 2021. We confirm that we do not believe the hearings to be required.

Prior to acceptance of the changes to the DCO application, we extensively consulted on them and had regard to the limited number of consultation responses in finalising the application for the changes. A further period of consultation was allowed for in the Examination timetable between 29 October 2020 and Tuesday 1 December (Deadline 3A) following acceptance of the changes. Only 3 responses were received at Deadline 3A from Allow Limited, I & A Simkin and South Staffordshire Water plc.

Allow Limited and I & A Simkin were represented at the December hearings and the representations made by them at those hearings included comments about the scheme as amended by the changes. As the Examining Authority is aware, a number of action points were agreed at the hearings, some of which relate to the changes, and Highways England continues to be in dialogue with both landowners with a view to narrowing the issues between us.

South Staffordshire Water plc was not represented at the hearings but indicated in its letter of 4 December 2020 that discussions with Highways England are ongoing and hopes to resolve matters without the need to attend the hearings.

In the circumstances, and being mindful that the Examination is mainly a written process, we do not believe that there are any further matters relating to the changes which need to be considered in a separate hearing at this time.

Yours faithfully



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