



Department for Transport

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To: Highways England, Cadent Gas Limited, Severn Trent Water Limited and Western Power Distribution Limited

Date: 9 August 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Application by Highways England (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting development consent for the proposed M54 to M6 Link Road.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT, Cadent Gas Limited (“Cadent”), Severn Trent Water Limited (“STW”) and Western Power Limited (“WPD”)

1. Request for an Update to the Environmental Information

The Secretary of State requests that the Applicant provides additional information on:

- a) the scheme’s compliance with the sixth carbon budget as set out in the Carbon Budget Order 2021, including an update to the assessment of the impact of the scheme on the carbon budgets as set out in [Chapter 14](#) the Applicant’s Environmental Statement to take account of the sixth carbon budget including for the design year (2039); and
- b) building on Chapter 14 of the Applicant’s Environmental Statement, the direct, indirect and cumulative likely significant effects of the Scheme with other existing and/or approved projects on climate, including greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation;

which should be set in light of the requirements set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and in light of paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the National Policy Statement for National Networks.

2. Request for an update on outstanding Protective Provisions

Cadent Gas Limited (“Cadent”) Protective Provisions

The Secretary of State notes at the close of the examination an agreement on the protective provisions had not been reached

Please could the **Applicant** and **Cadent** confirm the status of the agreement regarding the protective provisions within the Development Consent Order? If an agreement has been reached. Please could both parties provide the agreed updated set of protective provisions [[RR-010](#)].

Severn Trent Water Limited (“STW”) Protective Provisions

The Secretary of State notes at the close of the examination an agreement on the protective provisions had not been reached

Please could the **Applicant** and **STW** confirm the status of the agreement regarding the protective provisions within the Development Consent Order? If an agreement has been reached. Please could both parties provide the agreed updated set of protective provisions [[RR-015](#)].

Western Power Distribution Limited (“WPD”) Protective Provisions

The Secretary of State notes at the close of the examination an agreement on the protective provisions had not been reached

Please could the **Applicant** and **WPD** confirm the status of the agreement regarding the protective provisions within the Development Consent Order? If an agreement has been reached. Please could both parties provide the agreed updated set of protective provisions [[RR-008](#)].

The deadline for any response is 23 August 2021.

Given the coronavirus (COVID 19) emergency, the Planning Inspectorate are currently unable to accept hard copies of consultation responses. Responses to the matters outlined in this letter should therefore be submitted by email to: M54toM6linkroad@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.

The responses will be published on the project page for the M54 to M6 Link Road DCO on the Planning Inspectorate’s website as soon as possible after the above deadline at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/m54-to-m6-link-road/>

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State’s decision whether or not to grant development consent for the M54 to M6 Link Road, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Kopala
Head of the Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit