



# Department for Transport

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To: National Highways

Date: 22 December 2021

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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**

#### **Request for additional information from the Applicant on the cumulative assessment on climate impacts**

The Secretary of State invites the Applicant to update its response of [23 August 2021](#) to the Secretary of State’s consultation letter of [9 August 2021](#) to provide (or, to the extent that it has already been provided, identify) its assessment of the cumulative effects of Greenhouse Gas emissions from the scheme with other existing and/or approved projects on a local, regional and national level on a consistent geographical scale (for example an assessment of the cumulative effects of the Road Investment Strategy RIS 1 and RIS 2 at a national level).

This should: take account of both construction and operational effects; identify the baseline used at each local, regional and national level; and identify any relevant local, regional or national targets and/or budgets where they exist (including the carbon budgets, the 2050 net zero target under the Climate Change Act 2008, and the UK’s Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement). It should be accompanied by reasoning to explain the methodology adopted, any likely significant effects identified, any difficulties encountered in compiling the information, and how the assessment complies with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

The Secretary of State would also welcome confirmation that the response to all parts of this question has been prepared by a competent expert. Please can links be provided to any documents referenced and their relevance fully explained.

**The deadline for any response is 19 January 2022.**

Responses to the matters outlined in this letter are best submitted by email to: M54toM6linkroad@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. Postal responses should be sent to The M54 to M6 Link Road Team, The Planning Inspectorate, Eagle Wing 3/18, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN , however, please note that as a result of the ongoing Government guidance relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19) there are limited number of staff at Temple Quay House and therefore any submissions sent by post may be subject to delay. 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