

Meeting note

Project name	M3 Junction 9 Improvement
File reference	TR010055
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	13 July 2022
Meeting with	Applicant
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project update

The Applicant provided a brief update of progress on the project. This included the minimal design changes that are required to the project due to the pausing of all smart motorway schemes. The Applicant explained that it did not consider that the design changes and impacts arising from these were of a nature that required additional statutory consultation to be undertaken. There is no change to the red line boundary. The Applicant has continually updated stakeholders, including statutory environmental bodies. The Applicant also set out that it planned to do a public information event in September to update the general public about the project, which would incorporate information about the pause to smart motorways and how it would affect the project.

The Inspectorate asked whether environmental impacts would be the same despite the smart motorway change. The Applicant explained that although the impacts may not be the same, they would be assessed and reported in the Environmental Statement

Draft application documents for review

The Applicant confirmed that it intended to submit a further set of draft documents for the Inspectorate to review, to include the Development Consent Order and Explanatory Memorandum, Works plans, Land plans and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The Inspectorate enquired about the differences in the HRA to the last review. The Applicant stated that it would highlight the changes to the HRA. *Post meeting note:* the Applicant did not see the benefit of re-issuing the HRA to the Inspectorate to review. The HRA has not substantially changed since the Inspectorate's second review and previous review comments have been addressed.

The Applicant outlined that it intended to submit the draft documents to the Inspectorate middle to late August, although it would update the Inspectorate if there was to be any

change. Arrangements are to be made for a further meeting after the draft application documents have been reviewed

Submission logistics

The logistics for the submission of the application were discussed by both parties.