

PLANNING ACT 2008

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS OF NFU REGARDING THE A12 CHELMSFORD TO A120 WIDENING
SCHEME DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER 201 [...]**

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE NO TR010060

**SUBMISSIONS OF NATIONAL FARMERS UNION ON THE ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARING1 ON 28TH
FEBRUARY 2023**

DATE 9TH MARCH 2023

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Submissions on behalf of the National Farmers Union (“NFU”) in respect of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) by National Highways (NH) for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme. The NFU is making a case on behalf of its members who are affected by the proposed DCO.

2.0 Issue Specific Hearing 1 – 28th February 2023:

2.1 Proposed Prohibition of Slow Moving Vehicles

The NFU remains concerned regarding the level of assessment that has been undertaken by National Highways of alternative local routes that will be affected by the proposed prohibition of slow-moving vehicles, which would include agricultural vehicles. The NFU has requested from National Highways an outline of the alternative routes that have been assessed, however a clear outline of the suitable alternative routes available for agricultural vehicles are yet to be received.

National Highways have advised that specific details are required on the vehicle movements of agricultural businesses and this information is necessary for a quantified Safety Risk Assessment to be undertaken. The NFU is concerned about the amount of weight being put on the vehicle movements of agricultural vehicles today as businesses will change and adapt in the future and these movements may change rapidly over a short period. Some movements of agricultural businesses may change as frequently as from year to year due to the nature of their business such as agricultural contractors. The NFU would therefore like to understand the assessment carried out by National Highways on the local road network that could be affected by this proposal. It is essential that a full assessment is carried out, not just routes that agricultural vehicles are using now to ensure that alternative routes are suitable to carry agricultural vehicles going forward if this proposal is put in place.

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