

Sent by email 11/10/23

Philip Davie
Project Director
National Highways
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11 October 2023

Dear Secretary of State for Transport

Development consent application for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme

We are writing to update the Secretary of State on progress made with the Environment Agency in relation to matters which were still outstanding at the close of the Examination on 12 July 2023.

Prior to the close of the Examination, the Examining Authority requested National Highways to submit a case for derogation under The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (**WFD Regulations**). Entirely without prejudice to National Highways' position that the Scheme is compliant with the WFD Regulations, National Highways have prepared a without prejudice derogation case in light of the Examining Authority's request to do so. National Highways propose to engage with the Environment Agency on the content of the without prejudice derogation case before submitting it to the Secretary of State.

Separately, further discussions have been held with the Environment Agency to progress the detailed design of a number of structures on which the Environment Agency raised concerns. Those discussions have been very positive and significant progress has been made to produce updated designs with which the Environment Agency are content, although discussions are still continuing in relation to the detailed design of the Domsey Brook (West) underbridge.

At this stage, it is hoped that National Highways will be able to submit updated Engineering Drawings and Sections which show the minor revisions to the design of the culverts and the without prejudice derogation case to the Secretary of State in early November 2023.

Yours sincerely



Philip Davie
A12 Project Director
National Highways

Cc: The Environment Agency