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00:26

Now, yes, here we go. Thank you, everybody. It's now 10 to 12. Just gone, we'll resume. And just a reminder that hopefully those that are live streaming have press refresh. Otherwise, they won't be following any further. So I'll just hand back to Mr. Roscoe.

00:46

Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. Owens, during the adjournment, you were taking instructions.

00:54

Thank you, Mr. Roscoe, Rubio and for the applicant. So before I do respond on that issue, I was taking instructions on Can I just deal with a couple of quick points that have arisen from what was discussed before the break. The first point is just to reiterate that national highways will be consulting on all of the proposed changes, as set out in row 10, a of our suggested replacement examination timetable, and that consultation would include distribution of proposed changes, Constitution booklet, changes flyer publication of notices, and making documents available for inspection. And if as we think is like confer some of the changes, additional land is required, then that triggers additional publicity and service of notices requirements. So I want to just, it's entirely clear. The second point running on from that is that it is the case, therefore, whether deadline one remains on 14th of December, or as our suggestion, and indeed, the council suggestion is that it should go back to the 20th of December, whether whether it remains or changes, it is the case that written representations. And local impact reports will be due by then before the changes application scheduled for January has been made. That I'm afraid is the inevitable consequence of changes. That's what the procedure results in and it's not anything we can avoid. And therefore that is why there is clearly a process connected with the changes consultation letter, and then the ability to submit additional representations into the examination relating to the changes so that there will be an opportunity for those who wish to make comments on the changes to do so of course, the third point is the point that you asked me about one of the deadlines towards the end of the examination for references rows 19 and 22, of our suggested replacement programme. timetable. Rather, we are we are suggesting, but don't see any difficulty with this that at the one deadline, proposed for the 18th of April, that the examining authority issues, the further written questions if required, and submits the commentary on all changes to the draft DCO. And we think that could be quite helpful, but

03:40

just I'm sorry, Mr. Owen, I didn't pick up the last words in your previous sentence. And I got as far as dcl.

03:47

Yes. So row 22 is publication by the examining authority of your commentary on or scheduled changes to the draft DCO. We think that can safely be done at the same time as any further written

questions. So that that is exactly what we were proposing in our response to your draft timetable. Finally, sir, on the matters that I said, I'll take instructions on the the good news is that we have reflected on this and consider that we will be able by the earlier date of Wednesday, the 14th of December to submit the letter comprising formal notification to you of national highways intention to submit the proposed changes application. So we can indicate now that we can submit that letter by the 14th of December we are still suggesting that what is currently deadline one should be put back to the 20th of December for the reasons I mentioned earlier. which went back, which will benefit all those submitting written representations and indeed the local authorities for the local impact reports, and we think make better use of the pre Christmas work period. So that may assist by a week or so. In terms of an earlier submission of a letter, in terms of the just

05:20

done that, Mr. Owens, so you're suggesting effectively a deadline zero? If yes, call it that of the 14th of December, and then the movement of deadline one to the 20th of December?

05:32

Exactly. Yes. And the final points are in relation to the submission to you of the proposed changes application, including any what's called a proposed provision if additional land is required. We do not I'm afraid, as I hinted at, before the break, feel that we could do that any earlier than what we have suggested at the 24th of January deadline to as we are suggesting, on the basis that a lot of work is involved. And that is underway. Even now, but we don't feel able to bring it forward, I'm afraid.

06:14

Thank you. So right, thank you. Right. I don't have any further questions on what you've just said. Just let me turn to the panel. First of all, just to see now I can see shaking heads. Okay. Just in terms of the timetable now in relation to the suggested proposed changes application? Is there anything from the council rules in respect of what's been said briefly.

06:42

Michelle spoke on behalf of the council's Okay. And just to reiterate, there has been discussions between the councils and national highways with regards to our suggested amendments. And in document reference, PDL slash our dash even 015. And from the council's perspective, I should probably be aware of they have limited resource and deadlines can be extended for their submissions, they were very much appreciate it. And also incorporating the Christmas holidays, as part of that letter and

07:14

spark what we'll actually do, we'll go on to the Christmas holidays, then as a separate matter, it was really just relating to what we've heard on the proposal.

07:21

I've got no further issues.

07:22

Thank you very much. Mr. Sullivan. I heard from you just before the adjournment. I'll come back to you in a moment. Were there any other concerns?

07:31

Can I just ask as an interested party? Do any of these proposed changes, affect residential properties? People who may be affected for the first time? And just Could everyone confirm that people who are hearing this for the first time that that property might need to be acquired? We'll have sufficient time to

07:51

just follow the recording. We seem to just skip, could you just give your name first of all, purely for the benefit of the recording?

07:57

Yeah. Apologies, Mary Claire Martin image. repeat what I said,

08:03

No, no, no, that's fine. It's just for the benefit of the recording. Because when you come back to the recording, and people will have heard me on the recording asked you for it. There'll be able to link the two together, then because that's effectively the only minutes that we have of the preliminary meeting. Thank you. And the same will occur during hearings, obviously, because it is the same situation. Right? Okay. As Martin, I can, I can ask on your behalf, I can ask the applicant to either to very briefly respond to that now or to actually deal with it in separate discussions outside the preliminary meeting, Mr. Allen,

08:41

Rubio and for the applicants, I can indicate that some of the proposed changes would have a beneficial effect on residential property, they will be notified. As I have indicated, there'll be proper and adequate opportunity for consultation and representations to you on them. And if additional land is required, and I don't know if that is the case or not in relation to residential property, then all the safeguards that would apply then will apply

09:10

Australian Thank you. Dr. Martin, I apologise I should have used the term Dr. Martin when I responded at the end that Thank you, Mr. Solomon.

09:26

Thank you, William solving multiple mistakes. The revised timescale timetable would seem to resolve the issue I raised before the coffee break, but I had a couple of other points to raise with regards to deadlines. And that was basically to

09:46

solve it just just before you do that. It is helpful to us as a panel in these situations to we need to understand what is being said to us, and it's helpful if we deal with it in a certain order. And so what I would like to Do now having heard it in respect of matters in relation to the proposed changes. I would like now to move on to specifically the deadlines around the Christmas period. And then to ask if there

are other questions. Which category of those? Do you think that your question? It relates to deadlines zero, in terms of whether the applicant, and it turns on the discussions scheduled for tomorrow? But basically, it's a question with regards to the applicants ability to prepare a statement of significance or heritage impact assessment, or to have completed the ground investigation and survey work that the contractor has been instructed to undertake for the blue option, whether that would all be possible by deadline zero, right, given that it is just over a fortnight away? Right. Okay. Thank you for that. From what you've said, I can, I can understand how that would get into a level of detail. I've also got going through mine my mind as to when the areas that you might have interests in be representing interests in might be or not affected by any proposed changes? Mr. Owen, I would ask at this stage, is there anything that you can respond to briefly in terms of that, but before you do, I'm also conscious that discussions could take place outside of this preliminary meeting between particular parties to resolve questions and to answer questions. Mr. Alien briefly.

11:32

Thank you. So Robin, for the applicant. Certainly, I can indicate that the proposed formal notification of the changes coming as we've discussed in earlier December 14th of December, is certainly not going to be able to include any replacement or updated assessments, simply not gonna be time and they would follow on the 24th of January, with our actual application.

12:05

Thank you. And in terms of my comment, then on discussions taking place outside of this preliminary meeting, I see nods at your side of the table. So that's fine. Yes, it's dissolving. Was there anything that you wish to say in response, bearing in mind that meetings could take place outside? Thank you very much. Was there anything else on this particular item related to the suggested proposed changes? I don't see any hands raised. Thank you. What I'd like to do now is to move on to the second section of this particular element of the agenda. And this concerns the the movement of dates around before and after the Christmas period. It concerns the start of the examination. And it really concerns the applicant and the council's because the suggested amendments seem basically the same deadline one, then a move from the 14th to the 21st of December, which is backed by a week, if that was taken on its own, it would compress the time for comments on written representations, local impact reports and deadline one submissions. But then there is a deadline to move from the 11th to the 24th of January, which is almost two weeks, which eases that compression and indeed extends it by a week. There are of course consequences in that because it's the combination of two deadlines and comments on the applicants revised Ecco the first one that we've had since June of last year. And also the a the accompanied site inspection itinerary. So it causes other little complications. And it's it's a balance of a lot of different things. There are various matters competing. I'll go to Mr. Alien first, Mr. Owen was was my just run through of that situation around Christmas correct summary of what exists at the present in terms of suggested amendments? Yes, sir. Thank you. And in terms of the council's then was that a correct representation in summary,

13:58

shall spark for the Council of justice, thank you very much.

14:01

Right. So in all of this, then we have these matters competing against each other. And in all of this, we as a panel, and as an examining organisation, we have to allow 48 hours between receipt and publication because of the processes that we have to do to actually achieve that. Now, obviously, we're only hearing things today at this preliminary meeting. We then have our consideration to go through as I said earlier, but my overall question is, is what is more important and I'll refer this to the council's first what is more important to the council's is it more important in terms of having time working time before or after the Christmas break? In other words, you're asking the one before Christmas to go a week later, and you're asking them one after Christmas to go two weeks late. Which is which is the most important

14:54

and Michelle speak for the council's the Can I take instructions? Mr. Michel speak for the council's I've taken instructions and the view of the council's excluding Durham County Council, and is that we would rather have more time after the Christmas period. And that's that's a bigger priority for resourcing implications.

15:42

So that would be actually the what you're saying to me effectively is the moving back of deadline to be more time after. Right. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Owen, in terms of the applicant, a similar question.

16:06

Will be having for the applicant. So far as the applicant is concerned, there's considerable more work involved on our part for deadline to in terms of commenting on written representations, commenting on local impact reports, responses, written questions. So from our point of view, for different reason, we would echo what the council's have said, which is that we would appreciate as much time after Christmas as possible as we suggested.

16:40

Okay. Thank you. And then I'm conscious that I haven't heard from Darren at the moment. Could you just give your name first, please?

16:48

Claire Teasdale, principal planner, Durham County Council. Yes, we agree in terms of after Christmas being more beneficial to us. Thank you.

17:00

Right. Okay. So, basically, I've heard from those at the tables in terms of the Christmas period and the deadlines involved. Is that are there any other points that anybody else would wish to make on this particular aspect of the timetable? Just looking around the room? I see no hands raised. Thank you very much. Right. So that's, to my mind brings me to the end of those particular sections. I now have one other person who's asked to speak on this particular item. And that's Ms. Nicholson. I think in your representations, you query the short one day gap between this preliminary meeting and the hearings that we're undertaking in the remainder of this week. Can I just say, first of all that the hearings are a lot

of the hearings in this week are two for our clarification, the start of the examination, we're going for clarification of the party's positions, and how the unfolding examination is seen and managed. We haven't seen your written representations yet. We've seen your relevant representations, the written representations often put in more detail, we need to see those they aren't due until on the draft timetable. 14th of December, after we've seen those written representations, we get comments on them, we get chance to ask various parties written questions, and we get responses. And then if required, we have a further set of hearings, as I said at the start of this agenda item, which at the moment, a programme for week commencing the 28th of February. So that's when things will be discussed in more detail, if you like. So that's why these issues specific hearings in this week are really for us to find out the party's positions who were actually attending and to ask for questions of clarification. Miss Nicholson does does that actually help to explain the question that I thought you had? And do you have any other questions? Could you wait for the microphone please?

18:58

Mr. Nicholson was not in mind in for the purposes of the issue specific hearings that are coming up. Are you able to get any more information about how they should be approached by lay people who are attending?

19:15

Right? Well, we then we have questions if you like that we wish to ask in terms of those those hearings, and the subject matter if you've seen the supplementary agendas, we put out overall agendas, first of all, is the formal notification that hearings are going to take place, then in the supplementary agendas. We tried to go into as much detail as we can, without constraining the discussions to show the kinds of points that we're going to ask things on. And if you were an interested party who had an interest in one of those points that we've put on the supplementary agenda or something that is related to those points on the supplementary agenda, then it's the youth obviously to decide as to whether you attend that issue specific hearing or not. If you're and affected person, you're subject to compulsory acquisition, then you have the right to attend a compulsory acquisition hearing and be heard at that. But we will have a later one, after we've received your written representations if it's requested, so that we can hear from people there. It's almost like a little bit like two bites at the at the cherry. And in terms of the issue specific hearings, then there is a supplementary agenda for those there's also a supplementary agenda for the compulsory acquisition hearing. So have a look at the supplementary agendas. If there's something that you wish to, to say, in relation to one of those items, then it's up to you as to whether you want to attend or not. Well, I

20:39

have looked at supplementary agendas. And in fact, I haven't responded to the supplementary agenda. I've seen it yesterday that isn't on there. But I haven't had it applied to that

20:48

rise. I've seen I've seen the questions that you've actually had, you won't actually get a reply to that. But if those are the things that you wanted to actually raise it that issue specific hearing, then you're quite welcome to come along and subject to the discretion of the zoning authority to raise particular points at the stage just as people have done now. Thank you. Thank you. Just looking around the room, I'm

actually coming to almost the end of agenda item five now. Were there any other points that anybody wish to raise on? Agenda Item five? I'm just looking generally at the room first. This is the draft examination timetable. I will come to the applicant obviously at the end. Anything else to raise? I see no hands raised? Yes. Could you just give your name first please.

21:41

Okay, well, self regulate district. Can you just clarify whether our written representations as normal people need to be in by the 14th. On the 21st of December? I couldn't wait.

21:53

As I said at the beginning, the the purpose of this meeting is to hear from people before we confirm the agenda to the timetable. The 14th. As I just said, as the agenda item is it's the draft timetable. And so it's for us now to decide which of those dates which date is the date that we would wish to have those responses. And so that will be published on the project website. And you'll see that as soon as possible. Thank you. Any other hands raised from those seated? I don't see any. Thank you. Any more hands raised from the council side? Thank you.

22:50

Okay, so I've asked for those seated in the room. Is there anybody virtually that would wish to raise any items under agenda item five? And I don't actually see any hands raised on the virtual screen. Thank you. I've had no response from the council side. So now I can go over to Australia and Israel.

23:10

Thank you. So there's one final point we wanted to make, which I think you may have seen from a written comment submitted by an interesting person that concerns deadlines, seven, currently scheduled for Tuesday, the ninth of May. And it relates to the coronation of His Majesty, the King on the sixth of May. The result of that is the government has announced there will be a bank holiday on the eighth of May. And therefore, a deadline of the following day would be harder than otherwise. And we're wondering whether there is scope to push deadline seven back just by day, it would appear to be a reasonably standalone deadline with no knock on impacts down the line. Therefore, if I could ask the examining authority to give consideration in settling the rule eight version of the examination timetable as to whether deadlines seven could go back by a day or so to account for the bank holiday and and everything that will entail that would be appreciated.

24:22

Mr. Owen? Yes. I hear what you say. I would just like to make the point just for clarification, really, that the date of a deadline, the deadline is actually 2359 on that particular day, and the deadline exists in the draft on the Tuesday, but I hear what you say in respect of moving that to the Wednesday. Thank you. So that being the case, I believe everything's been heard under agenda item five. And now I'll hand back to Mr. Allen. Thank you all.

24:59

Thanks You're very much indeed. So we're now moving to the any other matters. And I'm just looking at my screen to see who wants to speak. I know. Mr. Dickerson you wanted you had some questions

under this item. I've also got here on the list as the HTV Action Group. Is there any as a representative from the HTV? Okay, that's, that's helpful. Thank you. Okay. So, I'll come to you, Mr. Nixon, if you've gone to ask your questions now, and then I'll ask if any other any other person wants to raise any any matter before I draw this meeting to a close?

25:52

Thank you, Mr. Nicholson. I've got a few questions they may have slotted into other parts so that I apologise. So first question is whether statutory bodies would be required to provide updates on the progression of their statements of common ground, our principal areas of disagreement, and how would interested parties or affected parties come to know about that? I raise it because it is important that those interested parties affected parties are informed about the progression because we have come to learn that as they stand at the moment, they can be inaccurate, and not involve consultation with individuals landowners, so to know about the progression of it, and rather than see them as a completed document, when assessed, and how could that be achieved?

26:52

The document, the draft, timetable, has a number of deadlines were updated statements of common grounds to be submitted. And I think alongside that will be tracked changed versions as well. So you can see in real time, if you like how the document has changed. So that the examination does have regular updates. In terms of notifications, it's it's through I'll confess to being slightly without knowledge on this on the spicy how the notifications work, because it is the case thing that do all that. But it is undertaken through, I think, notification that the documents have been submitted. But you will see as well from the draft timetable anyway, that these documents are due in. So you will know that they're there they're doing anyway. I don't know how much more I can answer to that they aren't they are we have a we have requested and they come in and they get published. So

27:57

well, that perhaps leads on to the next question, which is I think by the level of attendance you have here today or yesterday, I have people on screen. And my conversations that I've had with various bodies are their ability to understand the process and the 40 page rule six letter is reflected in the poor attendance you have here today. And on that basis, I asked Patton's whether they will consider preparing the equivalent of a sort of an Idiot's Guide to how you to participate in this on the deadlines, because a number of different agencies are clear claimed that they haven't submitted a request to attend, because they've got an email, but they haven't had a written request. And they've simply been overlooked. And that is why you're getting poor participation. And in the scheme of the significance, that is really disappointing.

28:57

I'll answer that in a couple of ways. The first way in respect of poor attendance. This is primarily a written process. And we've you'll have seen that there's been a fair response to relevant representation. So there are people that have responded that just because they haven't turned up to days doesn't necessarily mean that it's poorly attended. I would I would slightly disagree with you, if I may, on that. It may be that they just didn't want to turn up today, they were quite happy to watch the livestream and make written comments from there. In respect of sort of encouraging more participation. I think that's

more of a corporate issue. I'd certainly take that on board, and we'll pass that pass that on to people who sit higher above me and and make these decisions but certainly advice notes, we do have a number of advice notes on the website. But if you're saying that they're they're still They're not clear enough, and they need to be to be clearer how people can participate in these sorts of things. I will certainly take that away and pass that on.

30:10

Just just to come back to that I take your point about people not being present today, because it's primarily a written exercise. But the same applies. They're not aware that they've even got an email asking them to submit things. I refer to Eaton rivers trust Lake District National Park, very significant agencies that should be responding or not aware. And when they get through in six letter, it is quite intimidating. There's over 40 pages, I think there needs to be a revision to that, which could perhaps be built into the fact that there may be a revised timetable.

30:49

Okay. Thank you.

30:54

My next question is about mapping the rule six letter or identifies a mapping isn't an issue. And you've asked for revised maps to be provided. As someone who's struggled with the late provision and an inadequate mapping, I'm asking whether these revised maps will might be provided to various different agencies and landowners in hardcopy, rather than simply be available on the examination library,

31:30

that will be a decision for the applicant, you don't have to ask them on that. I mean, we are an examination authority who examines the information the evidence that is put into us? We the the I will say that the maps we asked for are much more helpful, I would say, in, in assessing where the new road will be in in relation to the existing road. I think the maps we had him before, then were very difficult to actually ascertain where the how the two work together. But in terms of hard copies of the plans, that is something you'll have to ask the applicant. I think it's not something that that yeah, that we that we would provide. Because we're in examining authority. We're in the same way, we're exactly like you were here to examine and look at the application. And the evidence is before us. So

32:31

I would just observe that if you struggled with the maps, and obviously you have a great deal more experience than it's lay people will find it even more difficult. So if you've had to request more detailed maps, then I think the experience of those you're not has experienced it is very difficult.

32:50

Well, no doubt the applicant will have heard that and, and will respond accordingly.

32:57

The next question is, I'm not sure if this is this is for the examining authorities, but it mentions local residents. Impact Report. But there's no information about what that actually is and how local residents could input into it.

33:15

Are you referring to the local impact report that's prepared by the local authorities on as a as a reporting to how they feel that the application will affect their local authorities, their areas, and they will be putting that in at the deadline? One.

33:33

But there's no actual information about how local people who then input into the local authorities report. So do you speak to the local authority about that? Yes. Thank you. And last question, it does tie into that sort of the accessibility issue, but you've had organised it this week. And there are four consecutive days, which makes it extremely difficult for people who are actually employed to attend. If you want to attend each of these, you have to take the equivalent of 40 hours of work because of the journey time involved to get here. That in terms of an impact on someone's working week is very significant. And I'd ask you to think about that sort of in terms of how you timetable things in the in the future?

34:28

Yes, okay. Understood. The issue is, is that the the examining authority is charged by the Secretary of State to obtain the evidence that we need to make our reports to the Secretary of State. And we have to do that through a series of written questions and the holding of hearings. The timetable that we we have six months between what is at the end of the end of this meeting, to do that process. There's simply the alternative would be to hold a hearings sort of once a week or once, once every two weeks or something, that timetables simply does not allow that to happen, that the hearings have to be held in, in a block has to be done. I appreciate it's it's it is difficult I have I can well understand. And we Yes, we are asking it is asking a lot of interested parties to like yourself to come and attend today. And we do appreciate that. But I would say that the this is the way it has to be done, in order to make best use of the time that we have, as I say, to get the information we need. And in holding the hearings, as we've done immediately after the preliminary meeting, think that the exercise decision to do that was to be able to have some of the discussions that you've been writing in about, particularly, for example, tomorrow's hearing on the alternative route options, which is of great concern to a number of people along the route, to have that say right at the outset of the examination rather than to wait two or three months and have it later on. So I do understand what you're saying I do accept that it is a lot for people to have to to come to all of them if they want to come to all of them. But there is no other way of dealing with it. In the limited time that we have. There may not they may we do. The open floor hearing that we're having. On the open floor hearing we're having this afternoon, there is opportunities for interested parties to call a second one, which could be held in the evening, if people would would like that. And we can hold that in the evening. It doesn't say doesn't even have to be here. We can hold open floors, a more flexible to hold in different locations, particularly if there's you know if they're in isolated locations or things like that in you know, so we can be a little bit adapt. Adaptable there. But in terms of holding them in, in one block. Afraid not, I'm afraid.

37:04

Okay. And the last thing I think it would be helpful if tomorrow, the agenda was actually visible either on his screen or a printed copy so that people had it and were able to follow it more easily.

37:16

I'm sure that can be arranged. Thank you. Thank you, Miss Nicholson. Does anybody have any further question? Any thing to say under this? Any other matters? Australian Thank you,

37:39

Robin for the applicant, sir may just assist Mrs. Nicholson to have a look at some of the planning inspectorates, advice notes, because they do bear on the issue she was just raising. So advice no one deals with the local impact report, which I think she would find helpful. Advice. No date is essentially a summary of the examination process, which again, I think she would find helpful. And we have clearly heard what she has said about the replacement, or updated drawings that were provided the middle of this month, and I'll take instructions as to I'm sure national highways will have a discussion with her about how we can assist. Of course, all of these documents are available for inspection as well, as well as being online. Thank you.

38:33

Any other points any wants to raise? No hands up in the room. I can't see any hands up on line either. So I'm going to now draw the meeting to a close. I do want to thank you all for your contributions today. And they've been very helpful indeed. Can I remind you please, that both the notes and the audio recording of the proceedings will be made available as soon as practicable on the inspectorate website. So as we've talked about today, I'm not I'm sure you'll not need reminding that the examination stage begins as soon as I close this meeting, and that there is an open floor hearing this afternoon in this room starting at 230. And I do hope that all of you here and many more are able to join us the next the next issue hearing issue specific hearing. The first one is tomorrow at 10 o'clock in this room, where we will be discussing alternative routes options. And you will see the agendas and supplementary agendas for that. So once again, can I thank you all for coming today. And the time is Half past 12 I hereby close this preliminary meeting. Thank you very much.