



Department
for Transport

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To: The Applicant

Date: 24 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

PLANNING ACT 2008 AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

APPLICATION BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (“THE APPLICANT”) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED A66 NORTHERN TRANS-PENNINE PROJECT.

CONSULTATION SEEKING COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

On 5 January 2024, the Secretary of State initiated a [consultation](#) inviting comments from the Applicant and all Interested Parties, the responses to which have now been published [here](#). The Secretary of State is seeking comments from the Applicant as regards these responses, specifically on the below:

The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act (2023)

1. The Secretary of State notes the submissions made by various parties, including [Natural England](#), on the impact of section 245 of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 which came into force on 26 December 2023. The previous [National Highways response](#) of 20 December 2023 is noted. The Secretary of State is aware that guidance on the new duty is awaited from Defra and in that intervening period and without prejudice to that guidance, is intending to rely on the advice provided by Natural England. **The Applicant** is therefore invited to respond to the comments from Natural England and if

thought helpful, to provide any supporting evidence that will help the Secretary of State in considering the application of the new duty.

Carbon Assessment

2. The Secretary of State notes the submission made by [Dr Andrew Boswell](#) regarding induced Heavy Goods Vehicles traffic and its implications for carbon emissions, specifically regarding the Applicant's approach to the assessment and the methodology used. The Secretary of States invites **the Applicant** to respond to this submission.

Cumbria Police

3. The Secretary of State notes the submission made by [Cumbria Police](#) outlining various concerns. The Secretary of State invites **the Applicant** to respond to this submission.

Any other comments

4. The Secretary of State invites **the Applicant**, if they wish to do so, to make any other final comments on the representations received in response to his consultation letter of 5 January 2024 in addition to any comments already provided to the preceding 3 questions.

DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES

Responses to the requested information should be submitted by email only to A66Dualling@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by 23.59 **on 31 January 2024**.

Responses will be published on the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 31 January 2024:

[A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of whether to grant or withhold development consent for the proposed A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project. Nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what the eventual decision might be or what final conclusions the Secretary of State may reach on any particular issue which is relevant to the determination of the application.

Yours faithfully,

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit