



**Defence
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Organisation**

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The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
2 The Square
Bristol
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3rd May 2019

Dear Sirs

Your reference: TR02002

Application by River Oak Strategic Partners for an Order granting Development Consent

This letter is written in response to the Examining Authority's second written questions and requests for information (ExQ2) issued on 5th April 2019 in which the Ministry of Defence/DIO was asked three specific questions at CA.2.2, CA.2.6 and OP.2.12. These three questions are set out in full below with the relevant response provided in each case.

1. CA.2.2 Set out the current position in respect of negotiations in respect of the future siting of the high resolution Direction finder (HRDF) apparatus on plot 41 and indicate the likelihood of reaching an agreement on this in advance of the end of the Examination on or before 9 July 2019.

At present the technical capability of the proposed new site has yet to be provided to Aquila who will make an assessment of this information on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Once this information has been submitted to Aquila and assessed by them, provided they are satisfied that the proposed new site provides the same level of technical capability as the existing site, then the MOD will be informed. If the proposed new location satisfies the necessary technical criteria, then the MOD will make a decision at the appropriate internal high level as to whether the apparatus can be moved. However, it should be noted that in addition to being satisfied that the technical capability of the proposed new site is at least as good as the existing site, the MOD will also have to be satisfied that the proposed new site is adequately safeguarded. Safeguarding of the existing site is currently achieved by means of the Ministry of Defence (Manston) Technical Site Direction (2017). As the proposed new site is located some considerable distance outside the boundaries covered by the existing Direction, an amended and updated Site Direction Plan will have to be put in place to incorporate the new site and an assessment made to determine whether or not there are any infringements that exist within the proposed new safeguarding boundaries. Such an assessment will take some time to complete. In addition, as previously stated, no evidence has yet been provided by the Applicant that the landowner on whose land the proposed alternative site is located is in agreement with the apparatus being sited there or that the MOD can be offered the freehold ownership of the land on which the HRDF would be sited.

Given the complexities of this matter outlined above it is considered that agreement as to the re-location of the HRDF will not be achieved on or before 9 July.

2. CA.2.6 Comment on this assertion (that the HRDF may be redundant to requirements).

It is unclear how the assertion that the HRDF may be redundant has arisen. As far as the MOD is concerned it is categorically refuted that the HRDF equipment at Manston is redundant. There has been no discussion within the MOD concerning the possible removal or decommissioning of the HRDF at Manston. As the Planning Inspectorate are aware the HRDF at Manston forms part of a National and Civilian capability which is vital to the ability to respond to air emergencies and the ongoing requirement for this capability at Manston is therefore confirmed. It forms part of an existing MOD contract until 2037 and it is anticipated that the need for the equipment will extend well beyond that date.

3. **Op.2.12 It was confirmed at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing held on 21 March 2019 that an assessment by Aquila to consider the Applicant's preferred site for the High Resolution Direction Finder was to be carried out.**

i. Update on the progress of this assessment.


See comments under Para. 1. above

ii. Confirm the scope of the assessment and any likely results.

It is considered that this information is for the Applicant to provide.

I trust the above information provides an adequate response to the questions raised.

Yours faithfully

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Graham Boulden B.Sc. (Hons) Est. Man. FRICS FAAV

Estate Surveyor