



The Planning Inspectorate

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To:

The Applicant

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR020005

Date: 24 October 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Planning Act 2008 – Section 89

Application by Gatwick Airport Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Gatwick Airport Northern Runway Project

Request for further information

The Examining Authority (ExA) has set out in this letter requests for further information relating to the submitted application.

Accounting for COVID-19 in transport modelling

The Department for Transport published guidance in May 2023 which provides advice on transport modelling ([TAG Unit M4: Forecasting and Uncertainty \(May 2023\)](#)). The guidance advises that the validity of models for future forecasting with base years established prior to COVID-19 should be assessed using present day observations.

Paragraph 5.3.26 of the Transport Assessment (TA) [[APP-258](#)] states that the Applicant will review this guidance and the implications for the assessment in the post-application period. The ExA considers that delaying this could have implications for the Examination.

If significant changes are identified, then the model should ideally be rebased. The guidance states that more proportionate approaches may be acceptable if evidence is provided that these appropriately cover most of the risks of not rebasing. The ExA has made a Procedural Decision to request that the Applicant reviews its transport modelling considering the recently published guidance. The ExA also requests that the Applicant engages with stakeholders, including National Highways and the Local Highway Authorities, at the earliest possible opportunity with a view to gaining agreement as to the appropriate methodology if the model is not rebased.

The Applicant should provide a high-level indicative programme in response. This should describe each stage of the process in sufficient depth to allow the ExA to understand how the requirements of the guidance will be addressed, including how any significant changes would be accommodated in the work programme and when the appropriate stakeholders will be engaged.

The Applicant should provide this response **by 14 November 2023**.

Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 12 - Transport

Paragraph 12.1.3 of ES Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport [[APP-037](#)] states that the assessment is “*based on the approach and methodology set out in the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidance (IEMA, 1993)*”. In July 2023 the IEMA issued ‘Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement’ (EATM 2023) that is a replacement for the IEMA 1993 guidelines. The ExA needs to understand the implications for the assessment presented in ES Chapter 12 of these replacement guidelines.

The ExA has made a Procedural Decision to request the Applicant to provide a detailed response, including setting out a programme for any necessary review, **by 14 November 2023**.

Application document formatting

In the Applicant’s Cover Letter [[APP-001](#)], point (e) of the ‘Application formalities’ paragraph states that the application has been made in the form set out (amongst other requirements) in [Advice Note 6 \(AN6\)](#). The seventh bullet in 8.1 of AN6 states that “*The main body of text in reports should have a minimum font size of 12pt using a clear font such as Arial or Verdana (for further information refer to Royal National Institute for the Blind’s clear print design guidelines)*”.

The ExA is aware that some of the larger documents may not meet this requirement. Of particular concern, to date, is the font size and landscape formatting used in the TA [[APP-258](#)] and the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) [[APP-147](#)]. Unless printed at a much larger size than A4, the ExA does not consider that these documents meet the requirements in AN6 with regard to readability. These two documents should be reformatted into a portrait A4 format like many of the other larger documents in the submission.

The Applicant should provide the reformatted TA and FRA **by 14 November 2023**.

The Applicant should in any future submissions ensure that documents comply with the seventh bullet in 8.1 of AN6.

Surface Access Highway Plans

To assist in the Examination, the ExA requests that the Applicant supply a set of scheme drawings clearly showing the existing OS 1:2500@A1 (or equivalent) map base. Currently the ‘Surface Access Highways Plans - General Arrangements’ [[APP-020](#)] have a very light grey existing topography layer background making identifying locations of certain

proposed features difficult when the existing layer is obscured by the much bolder proposed features, including features like road markings, pipelines, etc.

New Highway Layout Outline Plans are required to assist in the interpretation of the proposed scheme and its elements within the existing topography. The ExA requests such plans show the following in different colours:

- All existing topography in black and annotated as to identifiable features.
- Existing roads and footpaths hatched or shaded to enable identification within proposed outlines and any shading.
- Order Limits.
- Outline of proposed roads, active travel routes and extents of cutting and embankments.
- Light shading of proposed bridges/ viaducts.
- Light shading of proposed culverts/ tunnels.
- Any retaining walls.

An example of the type of new plan the ExA is seeking can be seen in the Examination Library for the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project at reference [\[PDL-006\]](#).

The ExA requests these additional plans are submitted **by 14 November 2023**.

If you have any queries on the matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Gleeson

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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