

Further Representation; 21st August 2024

Interested Party Reference No. 20042766

Following the series of Hearings that have taken place as part of the DCO, I write to clarify that whilst dialogue has been ongoing about one site in particular, the Sofitel Hotel at Gatwick, there has been no real progress or assurances to address the concerns we have raised throughout this process.

Whilst this letter focuses on only the Sofitel site, comments sent in early August remain valid where objections were raised.

The Arora Group remain in objection to the proposals, details of which are set out below.

1) Sofitel Drop Off Points; BoR- 1/209

Following further dialogue, it remains the case that GAL cannot offer assurances that the works, which are unknown at this stage, will not result in operational issues at the hotel.

The key concerns are:

- The impact of the works on the operational running of the hotel;
- Significant noise disturbance from any works as there are bedroom windows directly abutting the works area;
- No guarantee of the hotel drop-off bay being available and operational at all times, there is no other drop off bay serving for the hotel;
- No information has been provided on the duration of works/disruption.

We have been issued with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) however this offers no assurance that there will not be a closure of the drop off bays. A drop off bay will be necessary at all times.

The MoU makes offers to discuss the future proposals with the Arora Group, however the language used indicates that this consultation may be no more than a paperwork exercise rather than taking on board any objections that the applicant may have to the future proposals.

Should you wish to see a copy of the MoU, the Arora Group would be happy to share this with the Inspectorate team. **OBJECTION REMAINS** to this proposed land take, permanent or temporary, as it results in an inability to operate the Sofitel Hotel.

END