

**From:** [Arden, Nick \(VWG-UKGCSND/1\)](#)  
**To:** [Immingham Eastern Ro-Ro Terminal](#)  
**Cc:** [Heasman, Jon \(VWG-UKGCSND/1\)](#)  
**Subject:** Application by Associated British Ports ("the Applicant") Seeking Development Consent for the Proposed Immingham Eastern Ro-Ro Terminal Project ("the Proposed Development")  
**Date:** 23 May 2024 14:45:39  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please find beneath a joint response between the Applicant and VWG to your letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

As the Applicant indicated at the close of the examination, negotiations with VWG were ongoing at that time and in answer to the question raised, the Secretary of State should be aware that those negotiations are still ongoing. That said, the Applicant can confirm that the continuing negotiations are being conducted by the parties both positively and amicably. As the ExA were informed during the examination, VWG wish to relocate that part of their vehicle storage area currently in the Port of Immingham to the adjacent Port of Grimsby where it can be operated in tandem with a VWG storage facility already in place at that Port. The draft heads of Terms for an Agreement for Lease are in an advanced stage and the design and specification for the new site in Grimsby is currently being finalised. The target date for completion of the Agreement for Lease is Quarter 3, 2024. The Applicant will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that the new premises for VWG in the Port of Grimsby will be ready for occupation so as to enable VWG's relocation at the beginning of 2026 in the event that the Applicant and VWG are able to agree mutually acceptable terms for VWG's occupation. In this context, the Secretary of State should be aware that as far as the IERRT project is concerned, that timescale will not impede nor obstruct the commencement of the IERRT development in that the land in question currently occupied by VWG is identified in the Works Plans – and as Plot 9 in the Book of Reference - as the "Western Storage Area" and the Applicant's construction programme for IERRT looks to the commencement of works in the Northern, Central and Southern Storage Areas well in advance of the need actually to bring the Western Storage Area into use. Nevertheless, whilst the Applicant remains confident that the current negotiations will be successfully concluded and VWG relocated in advance of the Applicant's need to commence works in the Western Storage Area, the Secretary of State will understand that at present, so as to be able to ensure certainty of delivery of the IERRT scheme, the Applicant believes that it has no choice but to continue retain the powers of compulsory acquisition as sought in the draft DCO.

Yours faithfully

Nick Arden

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