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Newly identified affected persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR040011

Date: 05 October 2020

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Dear Sir/ Madam

## **The Planning Act 2008- Section 88 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 6**

### **Application by North Somerset District Council for an Order Granting Development consent for the Portishead Branch Line – Metrowest Phase 1**

In December 2019 an application by North Somerset District Council for a Development Consent Order for the proposed Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 was accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

The proposal is to rebuild the disused branch line between Portishead and Pill and reintroduce passenger train services to Bristol and beyond. Further details of the project and the application documents can be found on the project page of the National Infrastructure website.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/portishead-branch-line-metrowest-phase-1/>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the start of the formal examination of the project by the Examining Authority (ExA) was delayed. However, given the delaying effect of on-going public health controls the decision was recently made to start the Examination using virtual methods.

As a result, I issued a formal invitation, known as a Rule 6 letter, on 7 September 2020 (please find enclosed) to those people who had expressed an interest or are affected by the proposal inviting them to attend a Preliminary Meeting to discuss how the application would be examined. Further details explaining the purpose of this meeting, when and how it is to be held and the examination process in general can be found in the Rule 6 letter which is attached to this letter.

In order to be able to construct and operate the proposed railway in certain locations along the route the Applicant would need to acquire land or rights in land either on a temporary or permanent basis. The Applicant may therefore contact you to discuss

whether the land or rights could be acquired through a voluntary agreement rather than having to be compulsorily acquired through the application process.

Given the time that had elapsed between the acceptance of the application for examination and the Preliminary Meeting I asked the Applicant to provide an update on the progress that they had made with Affected Persons in respect of Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession. As a result of this exercise the Applicant has advised us that they have found that you have a previously unidentified interest in land that they will need on either a temporary or permanent basis. I am therefore writing to invite you to become involved in the Examination.

The first part of the Preliminary Meeting will take place on 6 October 2020. However, the examination itself will not start until 19 October 2020 so please take the opportunity to listen to the digital recording of this meeting that will be available on the project page of the National Infrastructure website as soon as possible after the meeting. If, after listening to this recording, there are any points that you may wish to make with regards to how the application will be examined then you need to submit these in writing by Procedural Deadline B (**14 October 2020**). At the same time, if there is something you need to raise orally with the ExA with regards to how the examination should be conducted, you can request to attend the Preliminary Meeting: Part 2 on **19 October 2020**.

In addition, if there are any points that you would wish the ExA to consider with regards to how the application might affect you, you can submit these in writing to us by Deadline 1 (**2 November 2020**). These comments will be known as an initial summary statement of case and will be given the same weight as relevant representations. You will then have the opportunity to expand upon these points by submitting a more detailed Written Representation at Deadline 2 (**23 November 2020**).

In addition, each person or organisation with an interest in land or rights that are affected by a Compulsory Acquisition request is classified as an Affected Person. As a result, you also have the right to be heard in relation to any objection about the effects of a Compulsory Acquisition request on the interests in your land. If you wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, then you would need to notify us in writing by Deadline 1 (**2 November 2020**).

If you wish to discuss any of the points raised in this letter or need any further information regarding the application; the examination process; the Preliminary Meeting or the deadlines then please contact the case team by either emailing [Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) or using the phone number at the top of the letter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

*Jo Dowling*

**Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors**

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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