

**From:** [Dave MHPD Adams](#) on behalf of [NSIP Applications](#)  
**To:** [Metrowest1](#)  
**Subject:** NSIP - Portishead Branch Line MetroWest Phase 1 - HSE (PORT-SP001) response to ExA Questions  
**Date:** 28 October 2020 10:19:19

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**Your ref TR040011**  
**Our ref PORT-SP001**

Dear Examining Authority,

In response to the Portishead Branch Line MetroWest Phase 1 Examining Authority (ExA) First Written Questions, please find HSE's response below.

### **ExA Question**

GC.1.16

In your RR [RR-015] you state that you have no objection to the Proposed Development subject to providing appropriate separation distances/protection measures between the Proposed Development and the two natural gas pipelines operated by Wales and West utilities. Could you:

Provide details of what these distances/protection measures or a link to where they can be found.

Confirm whether the Proposed Development achieves the required distances/protection measures.

Confirm whether these pipelines are those that the ExA observed in the vicinity of proposed access to Work No 12.

*You may wish to combine the answer to this question with the answer to question Cl.1.6.*

### **HSE response to GC.1.16**

The questions, under reference GC.1.16, need to be redirected to the natural gas pipelines Operator, Wales and West Utilities. It is the responsibility of the Pipeline Operator, for pipelines covered by the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 (PSR), to ensure that any pipeline modifications and/or upgrades meet relevant industry standards. In relation to the Proposed Development, it is for the Pipeline Operator to determine whether a modification and/or upgrade, which falls under the scope of the regulations, is required. The Pipeline Operator, would then have a duty under the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 (PSR), to notify HSE.

### **ExA Question**

C1.1.6

On the Unaccompanied Site Inspection [EV-001] the ExA observed that access to Work No 12 would run alongside a number of fuel pipelines. RR-066 also raised this as a concern. Can you confirm whether the use of this access by construction vehicles has been assessed as to whether it would cause damage to these pipelines? If not, why not and if it has what was the outcome?

**HSE response to C1.1.6**

The questions, under reference C1.1.6, need to be redirected to the pipeline operator. Pipelines that are subject to the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 (PSR) are classified as either major accident hazard pipelines (MAHP), which attract additional duties based upon the hazard and risk posed, and non MAHP to which the general duties of the Regulations apply. Many fuel pipelines fall into this category. It is the responsibility of the pipeline owner/operator in combination with the Landowner/Applicant to ensure that any health and safety risks arising from the presence of the fuel pipelines are assessed and managed as part of their general duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated Regulations.

Kind regards,

Dave Adams

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