



Department for Transport

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London, SW1P 4DR

Telephone: [REDACTED]
e-mail: Transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk
Web: www.gov.uk/dft

To: North Somerset District Council,
Bristol Port Company

Date: 13 August 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Application by North Somerset District Council (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent to construct a new railway on the trackbed of the former branch line from Bristol to Portishead including associated works (“the Proposed Development”)

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT AND BRISTOL PORT COMPANY (“BPC”)

Following my letter of 26 July 2021, in considering the Report and Recommendation submitted by the Examining Authority on 19 July 2021, in respect of its findings and conclusions of the above application to the Secretary of State for Transport (“the Secretary of State”), I am writing in relation to further matters on which updated information is requested before determining the application.

1. Request for an update to the Environmental Information

The Secretary of State requests that the Applicant provides additional information on:



- a) the scheme's compliance with the sixth carbon budget as set out in the Carbon Budget Order 2021, including an assessment of the impact of the scheme on the carbon budgets.
- b) building on paragraph 18.3.13 in [Chapter 18](#) of the Applicant's Environmental Statement, the direct, indirect and cumulative likely significant effects of the scheme with other existing and/or approved projects on climate, including greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation; which should be set in light of the requirements contained in the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and in light of paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the National Policy Statement for National Networks.

2. Portbury Ditch (Work Number 3)

The Secretary of State notes from the Statement of Common Grounds between the Applicant and the Environment Agency that the matter of whether a full flood risk assessment is required for Portbury Ditch (Work Number 3) remained outstanding [\[REP7-027\]](#). So that the Secretary of State is aware of risks posed by this element of the scheme, and can be satisfied of the matters set out in paragraphs 5.98 to 5.109 of the National Policy Statement for National Networks, a full flood risk assessment is required.

The Applicant is therefore asked to liaise with the Environment Agency and to provide the Secretary of State with a full flood risk assessment for Portbury Ditch (Work Number 3).

3. Trinity Footbridge (Work Number 7)

The Secretary of State notes the matters raised at the Examination regarding Trinity Footbridge and is minded to remove Trinity Footbridge from Work No 7 of the proposed order. As such, the relevant plans below would need to be updated.

- Works Plans [\[REP5-004\]](#) – 674946.BQ.42.01-301 Rev P and 674946.BQ.42.01-318 Rev P
- General Arrangement Plans [\[REP7-003\]](#) – 674946.BQ.42.01-571 Rev J
- Cross Section Plans [\[REP5-007\]](#) – 467470.BQ.04.20-SK300 Rev I and 467470.BQ.04.20-SK301 Rev I
- Portishead station layout and landscape plans [\[REP5-008\]](#) – 467470.BQ.04.20-102 Rev Y
- Portishead station plans [\[APP-018\]](#) – W1097B-ARP-DRG-EST-300001 Rev A02.
- The relevant design drawings listed in Requirement 4 (submission and approval of detail design)

The Applicant is asked to provide the Secretary of State with updated plans to reflect the removal of Trinity Footbridge from Work Number 7.

4. Bristol Port Company protective provisions

The Secretary of State notes from the [Applicant's letter](#) dated 9 August 2021 that BPC had not seen the revised document (enclosure 6) attached as [Annex 2](#).

The Secretary of State would like to draw BPC's attention to the revisions and to confirm if they are content with them.

The Secretary of State would ask the parties to confirm whether the protective provisions are now agreed between them.

Book of Reference

The Secretary of State notes that there are numerous anomalies in the Book of Reference.

The Applicant is asked to ensure that the Book of Reference reflects the most up to date position and to provide the Secretary of State with an electronic version of the updated Book of Reference.

The deadline for any response is 23:59 on 27 August 2021

Responses to the matters outlined in this letter should be submitted by email to Metrowest1@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. Given the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the Planning Inspectorate is currently unable to accept hard copies of consultation responses.

Your response will be published on the project page for the Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 on the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after the above deadline for response at:

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

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Kevin O'Hanlon