

Department for Transport

**PORTISHEAD BRANCH LINE – METROWEST PHASE 1B DEVELOPMENT
CONSENT ORDER 2022**

**THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
REGULATIONS 2017**

**NOTICE OF A DECISION ON AN APPLICATION FOR AN ORDER GRANTING
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR EIA DEVELOPMENT**

The Secretary of State for Transport (“the Secretary of State”) gives notice under regulation 31(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 that a determination has been made on an application made by North Somerset District Council (“the Applicant”) for development consent under the Planning Act 2008 (“the 2008 Act”) for Environmental Impact Assessment development.

The application was for the construction of a new railway on the trackbed of the former branch line from Bristol to Portishead. This would follow the existing railway corridor, comprising the disused railway section between Portishead and Pill, and then with associated works along the operational railway line from Pill to the existing Ashton Junction before joining the Bristol to Exeter main line at Parson Street Junction. The new railway would extend over an 8.5 mile section of railway, between Portishead and Ashton Junction in Bristol.

The Secretary of State has decided, following consideration of the report of the Examining Authority who conducted an examination into the application, that development consent should be granted and therefore has made an Order under s114, 115 and 120 of the Planning Act 2008.

The statement of reasons for deciding to make an Order granting development consent, which has been prepared by the Secretary of State under section 116 of the 2008 Act and regulation 31(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, containing the content of the decision, the requirements imposed in connection with the development, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision is based including relevant information about the participation of the public, a description of the main measures to avoid, reduce and offset any major effects of the development, and information regarding the right to challenge the decision and the procedures for doing so, is published on the Planning Inspectorate’s website:

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

It is also available at the following location:

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
Temple Quay House
Bristol BS1 6PN

To make an appointment for inspection of the documents contact the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000 or email NIEnquiries@pins.gsi.gov.uk