

The Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Planning Inspectorate
Robert Ranger
Case Manager
National infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Key House
2 the Square
Bristol
BS1 6PB

Dear Mr Ranger

**Response to Eversheds Sutherland Submission West Midlands
Interchange**

Having read the Eversheds submission it was clear to me that when the Northampton gateway examining authority (NGEA) prioritised the two overarching purposes of a strategic rail freight interchange (SFRI), which are to reduce Carbon emissions (paras 5.16 of the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN)) and to do this by being connected to the rail and the trunk road system. To fail to do this expeditiously means that SFRI is not fulfilling its principle purpose.

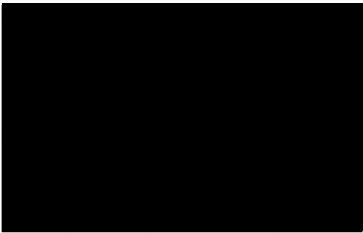
To fulfil the key criteria above I believe that the NGEA made the correct decision so that railway connection was in place from the start with warehouses so that SFRI can fulfil it's purpose. If the Rail connection was not present from the onset it is likely that WMI would increase carbon emissions as there would be no railway and to move any freight onto railway would mean moving from one diesel vehicle to another thus increasing carbon emissions. This would mean that the SFRI which is not rail connected is running counter to it's reason for existence.

Evershed's made a legitimate point that the phrase 'initial stages' is ambiguous and if the Secretary of State was minded to consider this ambiguity, I would suggest that the phrase initial stages would mean within the first six months of the occupancy of any freight shed. For there to be any greater length of time would mean that there is a large area of warehousing in

a Green belt land that is increasing carbon emissions and traffic in the Four Ashes Area with no positive environmental benefit for the country and a highly negative one for the local community.

In conclusion I would suggest that NGEA made the correct decision but if Secretary of State considered that there is some ambiguity on the phrase 'initial stages' I would suggest that a time limit must exist. I consider that any connection must be made before six months after the first warehouse is occupied.

Yours Sincerely



Rev Greg Yerbury.