



## Planning Act 2008

### DCO Application for Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange

Royal Mail Group Limited (Royal Mail) hereby wishes to notify the Examining Authority under section 89(2A) b of the Planning Act 2008 that Royal Mail is to become an Interested Party to the Examination into Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange.

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011 (the "Act"), Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom.

The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service. The Act includes a set of minimum standards for Universal Service Providers, which Ofcom must secure. The conditions imposed by Ofcom reflect those standards.

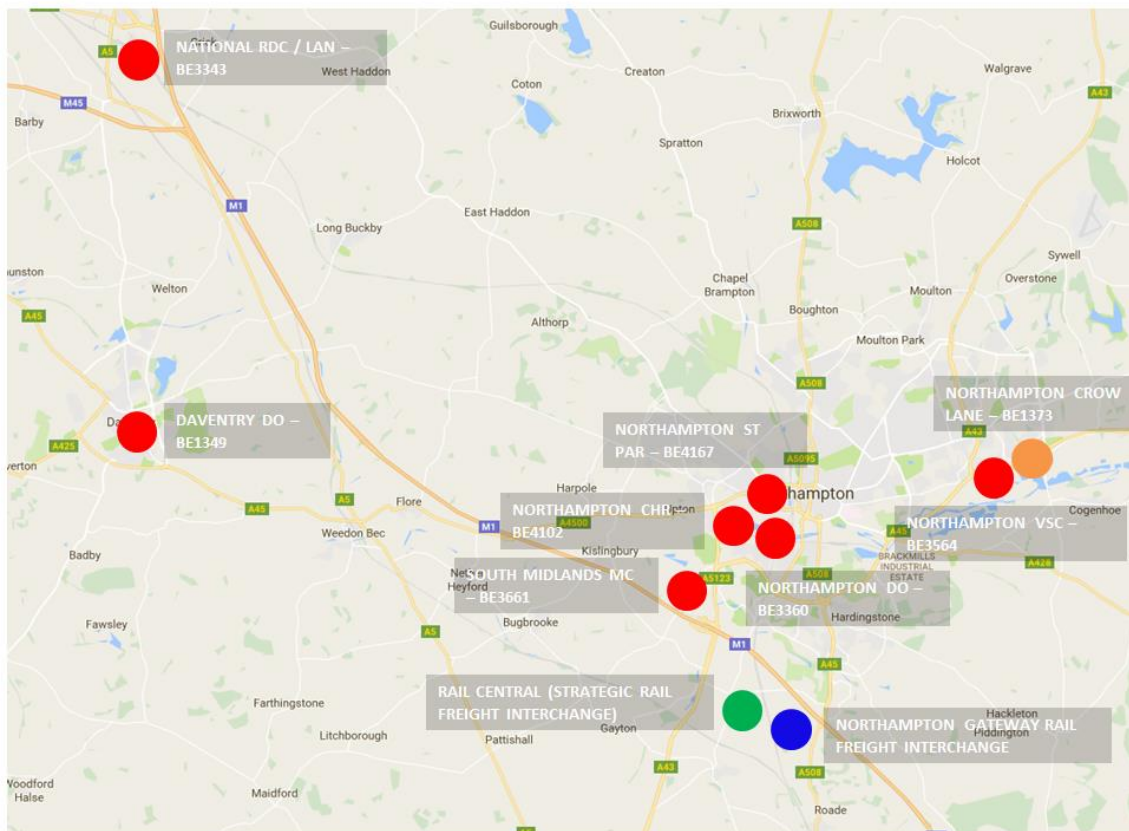
Royal Mail is under some of the highest specification performance obligations for quality of service in Europe. Its performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project.

Royal Mail's postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. Royal Mail's ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network.

Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail's operations, its ability to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail's business.

Royal Mail has a network of operational facilities in the area surrounding the Northampton Gateway Strategic Rail Freight Interchange proposal site, including those identified below:

Northampton St James Mill Delivery Office	St James Mill Road, Northampton NN5 5JY	4.4 miles
Northampton St James Mill Vehicle Parking	St James Mill Road, Northampton NN5 5JW	4.7 miles
South Midlands Mail Centre	Swan Valley Way, Northampton NN4 9DR	5.6 miles
Northampton Vehicle Service Centre	Unit 4 Fortune Close Northampton NN3 9HZ	6.1 miles
Northampton Crow Lane Delivery Office	Jackdaw Close, Northampton NN3 9UB	7.3 miles
Daventry Delivery Office	Vicar Lane, Daventry NN11 4GA	15.8 miles
National Regional Distribution Centre	Daventry Rail Freight Terminal, Northampton NN6 7DD	20.1 miles



It is relevant to note that South Midlands Mail Centre is a very substantial operation with over 1300 mail processing employees with a 55%/45% full/part time ratio. This Mail Centre serves the NN, CV and MK postcodes (2900 square miles) and handles 5% of all mailed items in the UK – 1 in 20 posted items are handled by this plant. 137 drivers are employed for the fleet of 56 trucks.

Every day, in exercising its statutory duties Royal Mail vehicles use all of the main roads that may potentially be affected by additional traffic arising from the construction and operation of the Northampton Gateway scheme and its associated package of highway mitigation measures.

Royal Mail therefore wishes to ensure the protection of its future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivery service to the public in accordance with its statutory obligations which may be adversely affected by the construction and operation of this proposed scheme.

In order to address this, Royal Mail requests that:

1. Royal Mail is pre-consulted by Roxhill Developments Limited or its contractors on any proposed road closures/ diversions/ alternative access arrangements, hours of working and the content of the final Construction Management Environmental Plan (CMEP).
2. The final CMEP includes provision for a mechanism to inform major road users about works affecting the local network (with particular regard to Royal Mail's distribution facilities in the vicinity of the DCO application site).



Contacts for Royal Mail:

Holly Trotman ([holly.trotman@royalmail.com](mailto:holly.trotman@royalmail.com)) of Royal Mail's Legal Services Team

Daniel Parry-Jones ([daniel.parry-jones@bnpparibas.com](mailto:daniel.parry-jones@bnpparibas.com)) of BNP Paribas Real Estate.

Royal Mail may simply rely on this statement but reserves the right to make further representations to the Examination in due course once further information is available.