



HARDINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Room, High Street, Hardingstone, Northampton, NN4 6DA

Email: Clerk@hardingstoneparishcouncil.gov.uk [REDACTED]

National Infrastructure Planning,
The Planning Inspectorate,
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square Temple Quay,
Bristol
BS1 6PN

**Re: Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Project – Non-Material Change
TR050006**

I am writing on behalf of Hardingstone Parish Council to express their strong opposition to the proposed amendment requested by SEGRO to the original Development Consent Order (DCO) granted in October 2019 for the Northampton Gateway.

The SEGRO proposal is clearly in breach of the National Policy Statement for National Networks, the national Strategic Rail Freight Interchange policy and the DCO granted for the Northampton Gateway. When this application was granted, it clearly stated that: 'a rail terminal capable of handling at least four intermodal trains per day ... must be constructed and available for use before the occupation of any of the warehousing' and it specifically prohibited any commercial activity until the rail connection was operational.

It appears that this amendment would allow a great deal of the site to become operational in advance of any rail connection, and therefore road serviced only, opening the door to the site operating without any rail connection. As such we do not believe this is a non-material amendment as the impact would be considerable to the local area. The increase in traffic and its associated noise and pollution would have a severe impact on both the local environment and local communities, which already suffer with high levels of HGV traffic, particularly when the strategic road network is congested and traffic is diverted from the M1 through the villages.

The immediate area along the M1 here has already had considerable increase in warehouses since the original application and the impact of increased HGV traffic is already noticed. We would suggest that another survey be taken to give a full picture of the current position before making a decision.

It is important that a precedent is not set here which allows developers to significantly change their plans after approvals and parameters of that approval have been given without full an appropriate consultation.

Kind regards

Sally Willis
Clerk to Hardingstone Parish Council