

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Northampton Gateway](#)
Subject: Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange Project-Non -MaterialChange TR050006
Date: 07 September 2022 13:08:43

I wish to strongly object to the change requested by SEGRO to the DCO issued in Oct 2019 for Northampton Gateway. The area has significant traffic problems which will not be solved by the minor work being completed by SEGRO, in particular in surrounding villages such as Blisworth where there are many old cottages (Listed Buildings) which are close to the carriageways. I understand that there were reservations by Planning Authorities about the proposal, but they were overruled by the Minister as a Rail Freight Interchange was considered of Strategic National Importance. Local residents reluctantly accepted the proposal as it would take some lorries off the road and lead to a more environmentally friendly transport system. A train can carry an equivalent load to 30/40 lorries. It was always obvious that obtaining access to the railway network would be difficult and "paths" even more so, with the passenger service to Northampton, as well as freight to DIRFT (which is currently undergoing expansion). Rail access problems were always dismissed by SERGO at public meetings and displays, whether this was due to incompetence or optimism is not clear. The current proposed situation is that if SERGO operate the depot as a lorry only system, far from reducing road traffic in the area it will increase it because each consignment will require 2 truck movements (one in one out) rather than just a single movement.

Clearly SERGO's request that this is a "Non Material Change" is incorrect you cannot have a Rail Freight Interchange without Rail and there was a specification in the original DCO for a capacity of 4 trains per day. I would urge you to refuse the request and insist that the depot should not commence operation until Rail capacity is available. Further the appearance of the site is ugly and a blight on the landscape, I would request if Rail connectivity cannot be provided in a reasonable timescale (eg 1-2 years) the site should be cleared and restored countryside at the developers expense.

Mr Richard Hennessy

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