

email [REDACTED]

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

Dera Sir, I am writing concerning the 'Non Material Change TR50006' to the above project.

I am [REDACTED]
admirably qualified to analyse and comment on the proposal. I am certainly not what might be termed a 'NIMBY' as I am in favour of structured development, with 'joined up' planning (subject to due and rigorous process), such that the impact of the development can be understood, predicted and mitigated as far as possible.

To me, the current development was on the edge of acceptability. A primary concern was increased traffic in the villages – in my case – particularly through Blisworth. Already we are seeing a substantial deterioration in our quality of life, with increased levels of traffic trying to divert though the village (on unsuitable and weak roads) to avoid the areas of construction. There will be extra traffic and pressure on Stoke Road once Southbound traffic has to use Knock Lane rather than the Courteenhall Road when the Roade Bypass is operational. At peak times Stoke Road is already virtually impassable, with regular bumps, frayed tempers and frustrating delays. There are always some parked cars on Stoke Road; this is essential for the residents and for users of the Surgery next to our house.

This traffic problem will be made **unquantifiably** worse with the proposed change. It cannot be argued that this will only affect freight traffic using junction 15 on the M1; it will affect all traffic. If there is a significant disruptive event on the M1 or connecting parts of the road network I feel sure gridlock will ensue in the villages. There will be no 'contingency' capacity. Hence I believe this cannot be considered a Non-Material Change and should not be approved. It is a **major change of use** and - if approved - will have a permanent impact even when the rail connection becomes operational. There has been no update on the traffic surveys and information from 2019.

Please register my strongest possible objection to this 'Non-Material Change'

Your faithfully

Andrew C. Carter FREng MA DPhil CEng

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cc (by email) to Dame Andrea Leadsom MP