

*This is a copy of the written text which I read aloud at the second Open Floor Hearing (OFH2) on 2nd October 2023.*

I'm William David Moore.

I submitted a 33 page written representation on the 10th of October, which addressed the noise and vibration report.

The examining authority's questions on noise yesterday indicated a lack of understanding of the most basic elements of the key issues I have raised. The examining authority asked the applicant some questions which clearly stemmed from my written representation, but what I wrote somehow seemed to have been misunderstood. The examining authority didn't seem to appreciate the difference between background sound levels (LA90s) and ambient sound levels (LAeqs). Indeed the examining authority was speaking about attenuating background levels when nobody had suggested that and there's no reason for that to happen.

As a result, points that I had made came to almost nought. And my most important point was lost altogether, as I shall now describe.

The noise and vibration report arrives at existing ambient sound levels at NSRs which can only be correct if trains are passing immediately outside the front door of each NSR. But of course they are not, and those existing ambient sound levels in the noise and vibration report are wrong.

In fact, the median distance between each local NSR and the railway line is approximately 330 metres.

I pointed this out in my written representation, but received back from the applicant only that the Noise Survey Method Statement was submitted to and agreed with Blaby District Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. You will understand that this response represents only a procedural justification, and provides no form of technical justification whatsoever.

I had hoped that, assuming the Examining Authority had read my written representation, they would understand not only the points I had made, but also see that I had received no meaningful reply. Indeed that being the case, the examining authority was my only hope to effect any change at all.

However we've reached a point in the process where something has to be done because the applicant's behaviour in this area is wrong and in view of what failed to happen yesterday, there's no sign it will be put right. The applicant won't accept they've done anything wrong and the examining authority's questions yesterday indicate the authority presently does not understand noise terminology, or the issues surrounding the noise report.

With the applicant not making any changes, the only agent for change is the examining authority themselves. Over to you.