

Date: 17 September 2024
My Ref: HNRFI
Your Ref: TR050007
Contact: Ed Stacey
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Gareth Leigh
Head of the Transport and Works Act Orders Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Sent by way of email to transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

Dear Mr Leigh,

APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED HINCKLEY RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

I write in response to your recent publication of the Secretary of State's Letter and the Examining Authority's Recommendation Report for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI).

Blaby District Council are still considering the content and consequences of this letter and report but wish to provide you with our initial thoughts on the timescales set out for the submission of further information by the Applicant and subsequent responses by Interested Parties. As a result, I write this letter without prejudice to any further comments we may wish to make.

Paragraphs 169 and 170 of the Secretary of State's Letter set out areas that the Applicant is required to provide further information and comments on, and paragraph 171 sets a deadline of 10 December for the submission of this information. Whilst the Applicant is given 3 months to provide the requested information, Interested Parties are only given 28 days, over the Christmas and New Year break, to make their comments. This is simply not enough time for Interested Parties to meaningfully review and respond to the Applicant's information. Moreover, there seems no logical reason why the deadline cannot be longer. It is likely that the Christmas and New Year break will disrupt up to 14 days of this response time, giving the public and technical stakeholders only 14 days to review what could be significant amounts of information and prepare an appropriately detailed response.

The provided deadlines prevent Interested Parties from their rights to properly engage in the Development Consent Order process and we invite an extended deadline.

Blaby District Council reserves the right to make further representations on this matter in due course.

I therefore urge you to extend the timescales for Interested Parties as requested without delay.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Stacey
Major Schemes Officer, Blaby District Council

