

Bill Cullen MBA (ISM), BA(Hons) MRTPI
Chief Executive

Please Ask For: Chris Brown
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Your Ref:
Our Ref: HNRFI
Date: 20th September 2024



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Gareth Leigh,
Head of the Transport and Works Act Orders Unit,
Department for Transport,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London, SW1P 4DR

Dear Mr Leigh,

Hinckley National 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).

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough 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 three months to provide the requested information, interested parties are only given a further 28 days, over the Christmas and New Year break, to make their comments.

This is not considered to be sufficient time for interested parties to meaningfully review and respond to the applicant's additional information provided. Moreover, there seems no logical reason why the deadline cannot be longer. The Christmas and New Year break will disrupt up to 14 days of this response time, giving only 14 days to review what could be significant amounts of information and prepare an appropriately detailed response.

As currently set out, we consider that the provided deadlines prevent interested parties from properly engaging in the Development Consent Order process and we invite an extended deadline for comments. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough 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.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Christopher Brown MRTPI
Head of Planning
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council