



Department for Transport

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Dear Christopher,

APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED HINCKLEY RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

Thank you for your letter of 17 September 2024 expressing your concerns on the timeline for Interested Parties to comment on the additional information requested from the Applicant by the Secretary of State for Transport (“the Secretary of State”) on the development consent order application for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange project (“the application”).

As you are aware, the Secretary of State published a letter stating that she is ‘minded to refuse’ Tritax Symmetry Limited’s (“the applicant”) application and has extended the statutory decision deadline to 10 March 2025. As set out in the ‘minded to refuse’ letter, this is to request further information from the Applicant on a number of matters by 10 December 2024. As you have noted, the Secretary of State’s letter confirmed that Interested Parties will be given 28 days to comment on this additional information. I can confirm that this was intended to be 28 working days in order to take account of the holiday period. We consider that 28 working days would have allowed Interested Parties such as yourselves sufficient time to consider any points of relevance in the applicant’s submission and to provide comments. We do accept, however, that the holiday period may make it difficult for members of the public to submit representations and, subject to the timing of the applicant’s response, we therefore now anticipate that we will request that comments from all Interested Parties should be submitted by no later than 31 January 2025.

We will of course confirm the deadline for comments on the additional information submitted by the applicant through a formal consultation letter which we will publish on the Planning Inspectorate website, where the applicant's submission will also be published. Your letter and a copy of this response will also be published on that website.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Muldoon
Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit