

28th February 2013

Peter Burley
Chief Planning Inspector
The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3/13
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN

LDR/NB/YG

Dear Mr Burley

Thames Tideway Tunnel development consent application

I write with reference to today's submission to the Planning Inspectorate of the development consent application for the Thames Tideway Tunnel by Thames Water. In particular, I am concerned that the standard 14 day deadline for challenge is insufficient in the extreme for a project of this scale. This timeframe does not allow us to even begin proper analysis and assessment of the application, which is, after all, for infrastructure deemed to be of national importance and, as such, consisting of complex documentation that runs to some 50,000 pages.

In order to allow this Council, and the myriad other affected parties, time to give the development consent application our fullest attention, we would ask that acceptance of the application is delayed so that proper alternative studies can be undertaken and that the results and public consultation on those results can be carried out. As a minimum, we ask that you extend the 14-day deadline for challenge in order that this highly contentious and disruptive project is subjected to proper consideration and scrutiny by those who will have to suffer years of blight in the event that the project goes ahead.

This is the first major infrastructure project to be referred to the new Planning Inspectorate and 14 days is wholly inadequate for such a complex application. I would expect the deadline for responses to meet the existing Government guidelines of 12 weeks for all consultations.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Nicholas Botterill
Leader of the Council