



November 8 2013

Ms Jan Bissell
Lead member of the ExA
The Planning Inspectorate
3/18 Eagle wing
Temple Quay Square
2 The Square
Bristol BS1 6PN

By email

SYR04

Dear Ms Bissell

**Application WW010001 by Thames Water Utilities Limited for the Thames Tideway Tunnel:
Written Representations**

Our unique reference number: 10018146

I am writing to you urgently on behalf of Save Your Riverside to draw your attention to the very unsatisfactory position that has now arisen in relation to the answers to the First Written Questions posted on the PINS website yesterday.

As you know the applicant's response to the questions amount to some 179 files (with some documents over 500 pages long) comprising 654MB of data, and so IPs have been inundated with new information. On request to Thames Water we have been able to obtain a DVD of these documents today, it being quite impractical to download this amount of documentation on an ordinary internet connection. It is only this afternoon therefore that we have been able to begin to assess the considerable extent of the new information. Being able to access the documents is one thing, having sufficient time to identify, read and digest the ones that are relevant to our case, and to take professional advice on them, is quite another. All other IPs (except of course the applicant) and presumably the Panel are in the same difficulties given that the IS hearings commence on Monday.

At least some of the material supplied is on the optioneering workshops which the applicant used to select sites, and in the case of Chambers Wharf these apparently took place between Dec 2010 and June 2011. We have been asking for this information repeatedly since at least July of last year, it has been promised by the applicant but has never materialised until yesterday in response to the ExA's questions. The applicant is in clear breach of your ruling of no merit in holding information back, and

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it seems to us that the applicant has set out deliberately to wrongfoot any critics of its proposals by these tactics.

We appreciate that the timetable for the IS hearings has been set, and you will be reluctant to amend it at this late stage. We do ask however that you reflect on how fairly the hearings can be conducted, given that the applicant has placed itself at an advantage at least in relation to the information which has been sought by IPs well before the First Written Questions were published, and that accordingly a serious risk of the cases of IPs being prejudiced has arisen. Those IPs with an interest in the western tunnel have even less time to prepare than those of us mainly concerned with the eastern tunnel.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

Barney Holbeche, Secretary, SYR