



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Sarah Richards
Chief Executive
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

17th October 2018

Ref: AL/TG/1810

Dear Ms Richards,

Re: Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange

I write regarding the above application by Roxhill (Junction 15) Limited to develop a strategic rail freight interchange at the junction of the West Coast Main Line and the Northampton Loop Line between the villages Blisworth, Roade and Collingtree. The application is currently at examination stage with PINS, and a Rule 8 letter was issued earlier today.

I am deeply concerned about the final examination timetable that has been set out in Annex A of the Rule 8 letter. I have made clear that, as the constituency Member of Parliament for the affected area, I wish to take the opportunity of appearing before the Examining Officers to make representations on behalf of the hundreds of constituents who have contacted me with their concerns since the development was first announced.

I was unable to attend the Preliminary Meeting or the first Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) on Tuesday 9th October, or the first Open Floor Hearing (OFH) on Wednesday 10th October, due to requirements in Westminster whilst the House of Commons is sitting. I have previously raised this with the project team myself, and I know that my Parliamentary Assistant has also requested on my behalf that subsequent ISHs and/or OFHs are held on a Friday or a Saturday so that I may attend.

It was disappointing therefore to see that the Accompanied Site Inspection, ISH2, and ISH3 are scheduled in Annex A for Tuesday 18th, Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th December. The House of Commons does not rise for Christmas Recess until close-of-play on Thursday 20th, so I again will be unable to attend these events.

Similarly, ISH4, ISH5 and OFH2 are scheduled for Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March. Although the dates for the Easter Recess have not been announced, I would anticipate that the House will most certainly be sitting across this period and I will therefore not be able to attend.

Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire



This development, alongside the forthcoming application from Ashfield Land for their proximal Rail Central strategic rail freight interchange, represents the single largest infrastructure project in my South Northamptonshire constituency since the line-of-route for HS2 was agreed. If granted, it has the potential to impact thousands of my constituents for years to come and I feel it to be very important that, as the elected representative, I have the opportunity to convey the overarching fears and concerns that my residents have about the project.

Please could I ask you to consider the above points, and to do what you can to ensure that there is an OFH on a suitable date so that I may attend? I know that there are also a number of my constituents who, due to their own work commitments, are unable to attend an ISH or OFH during the working week and would be grateful for a Saturday or late evening weekday meeting.

I enclose a copy of Annex A for your reference, and I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Leadsom".

The Rt Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

[Enc.]