



MetroWest+

Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset Council

9.84 SoS.CL.PE.V1 - Applicant's Cover Letter for Submissions to the Secretary of State for Transport

Author: North Somerset District Council

Date: December 2021



Date: 20 December 2021
My ref: MetroWest Phase 1
Your ref:
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By email only

Dear Mr O'Hanlon

Applicant: North Somerset District Council
Development Consent Order application for Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1
Application Reference: TR040011
Applicant's Response: Three responses received by Secretary of State on 8 December 2021

I write in response to the documentation received in response to the Secretary of State's letter of 23 November 2021, submitted to the Secretary of State by parties other than North Somerset District Council (the Applicant).

The Applicant notes that the Secretary of State has received 13 responses to the consultation of 9 November 2021 other than the Applicant's submissions.

The Applicant notes that, in response to the Secretary of State's specific questions raised in the letter of 9 November 2021, all parties with statutory responsibilities, such as the Environment Agency, have not provided any additional commentary.

The Applicant further notes that three responses from interested parties other than parties with statutory responsibilities are supportive of the Applicant's proposals.

In relation to those responses that are from interested parties who are not parties with relevant statutory functions, the Applicant makes the following points:

1. The Applicant has confirmed to Babcock International Group that the former Work 27 (the pedestrian and cycle ramp between Ashton Vale Road and Ashton Road) no longer forms part of the Applicant's scheme.
2. In relation to those interested parties who object to the Application, the Applicant has reviewed the submissions made and believes that the Secretary of State already has sufficient information on the Applicant's proposals and submissions regarding the points raised to enable him to move forward to making a decision, without the Applicant providing further detailed responses to each of the points the interested parties have made.

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3. The Applicant therefore does not propose to respond in detail to each of the points raised by those interested parties but does not accept the points raised.
4. The Applicant will provide the Secretary of State with any specific responses required by the Secretary of State if it is felt that, contrary to the opinion of the Applicant, further detailed responses are necessary.
5. At this time however, the Applicant expects that the Secretary of State will now move forward to making a decision on the Application.

The Applicant also provides to the Secretary of State a revised version of the draft Development Consent Order, should he be minded to make the order. The Explanatory Memorandum has also been updated.

The change relates to the definition within article 2 of the draft Order. For the definition of "National Highways" the definition refers to "Highways England Company Limited" but this company has now changed its name to "National Highways Limited" since the last draft of the Order was provided to the Secretary of State.

In the Explanatory Memorandum, in relation to the commentary against Requirement 29 at page 49, reference to "Highways England Company Limited" is now to "National Highways Limited".

The Applicant encloses an amended draft Order (clean Word and PDF copies) and Explanatory Memorandum reflecting the above changes. Tracked copies have not been provided as the only changes are to alter Highways England to National Highways. Tracked copies can be provided if this would assist the Department.

The validation process continues to not function well. The Order has been put into the validation process in four parts to aid the process. The Applicant encloses 4 validation reports for the constituent parts of the Order.

Please confirm receipt of this letter and enclosures.

Yours sincerely



James Willcock
MetroWest Phase 1 Programme Manager

Enclosures:

1. Revised draft Order (Word)
2. Revised draft Order (PDF)
3. Revised Explanatory Memorandum (PDF)
4. Validation reports for Parts 1-4 of Order (combined)