



## Cory Decarbonisation Project

### Royal Mail Written Representation at Examination at Deadline 7 - 2 May 2025

Interested Party Registration ref: 20049124

#### 1.0 Introduction

As set out in its Relevant Representation submitted on 14 June 2024, Royal Mail supports this scheme but is concerned about the potential for construction phase impacts on its road-based mail and parcel distribution operations. Any such impacts have potential to interfere with Royal Mail's ability to meet its service delivery targets as a provider of the Universal Postal Service under the Postal Services Act 2011.

Royal Mail and its consultant BNP Paribas Real Estate have reviewed the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) dated March 2025. It is noted and welcomed from section 3.4.8 of this document that ***"local businesses, including Royal Mail, are kept informed about relevant construction works to minimise traffic disruption."*** However, this reference alone does not go far enough to mitigate the potential construction phase risks to Royal Mail. More structured and regular communication with Royal Mail is requested, particularly for major infrastructure projects such in busy parts of Greater London and its environs (as has been set up for other DCOs including Silvertown Tunnel and more recently on Lower Thames Crossing).

#### 2.0 Statutory and operational information about Royal Mail

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011 (the "Act"), Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom. The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

The Act includes a set of minimum standards for Universal Service Providers, which Ofcom must secure. The conditions imposed by Ofcom reflect those standards. Royal Mail is under some of the highest specification performance obligations for quality of service in Europe. Its performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and this should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project.

Royal Mail's postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. Its ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network.

Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail's operations, its ability to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail's business.



### 3.0 Relevant Royal Mail Operational information

Abbey Wood Delivery Office is approximately 1 mile away from the site of the proposed Cory Decarbonisation Scheme. Rainham Delivery Office is approximately 1.25 miles north-east.

There are a number of other operational Royal Mail Properties in the area surrounding the scheme as shown in red font on the plan below:



Advance notification of works that affect the highway network by Cory Environmental Holdings Limited or its contractors will help Royal Mail's operational managers to limit and mitigate their impacts on Royal Mail operations.

### 4.0 Summary of Royal Mail's position on the Cory Decarbonisation Project as at Deadline 7

Royal Mail supports the Cory Decarbonisation Project, but as a provider of the Universal Postal Service under the Postal Services Act 2011 it is also seeking to take all reasonable steps to protect its operational interests from adverse impacts that may arise from the construction phase of this scheme.



To do this, Royal Mail requests that:

1. the CTMP includes a requirement that during the construction phase Royal Mail is notified by Cory Environmental Holdings Limited or its contractors at least one month in advance on any proposed road closures / diversions / alternative access arrangements and hours of working,
2. the CTMP includes a requirement on Cory Environmental Holdings Limited or its contractors to inform Royal Mail about all works affecting the local highways network, with particular regard to Royal Mail's nearby distribution facilities, as identified above, and
3. Royal Mail is invited to join any stakeholder consultation group that is set up by Cory Environmental Holdings Limited or its contractors with the Local Highways Authority and other major road users.

Any queries in relation to the above representation should be directed to:

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