

Mr F N Khan-Sherwani

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14 February 2025

Mr Barrowman (Case Manager)
The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol. BS1 6PN

Email: lowerthamescrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

Entirely without Prejudice

DCO Scheme - Lower Thames Crossing

Informal Response to National Highways letter dated 30 January 2025

My recent correspondence (refer to my letters dated 30 January 2025 and 6 February 2025 respectively) referred to some of the central issues that impact on the current lack of progress of the project.

When viewed in the light of the other transport infrastructure commitments the Government is taking on (includes Silvertown and the Blackwall Tunnel) in this difficult economic time, it appears to my wife and I that the Government has difficulties to find and explore fresh ideas which is not surprising.

The absence of insufficient land for the project is of significant concern. We are aware that the proposed Ebbsfleet cinema complex is not proceeding which leaves open the possibility the Government may consider purchasing that land for its project but that will require the most careful consideration.

However, we have another proposal that may or may not be of interest or fall within your present brief on this issue.

We are the owners of a strip of woodland (approximately 26 acres) located on the Southwest side of the M2 motorway at the Rochester motorway bridge. The land lies between the motorway and the HS1 and runs for about a mile along the motorway towards London. We were proposing to use the land as a major lorry park, service station and for ancillary purposes. Our proposed service station would replace the existing Cobham Rest and Services Area (RASA) located near the Gravesend East motorway junction, the demolition of which is required for the construction of the project bridge.

Paragraph 2.16 of the 7.5 Design Principles Consultation Letter refers to the needs and requirements of securing additional land for the project on a temporary and /or permanent basis which also allows the possibility of the Government leasing our land during the construction phase of the project. Is this a proposal that the National Highways would be prepared to consider with us (if possible, in partnership) if that is helpful and beneficial for the project? At the very least National Highways will be able to improve the existing motorway infrastructure for the project to proceed,

We attach for ease of reference our letter of 6 August 2024 with its enclosures which are included in the documents on your website.

Yours faithfully,

Farrukh Khan-Sherwani

Encs