

From: [Lower Thames Crossing](#)
To: [REDACTED] "info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk"; "lrc@highwaysengland.co.uk"; [Lower Thames Crossing](#)
Cc: "GRice@thurrock.gov.uk"
Subject: RE: Lower Thames Crossing Supplementary Consultation extended
Date: 02 April 2020 13:47:45

Dear Mrs Askew,

Thank you for your email expressing concerns about the adequacy of the Applicant's Pre-application consultation in the current unprecedented public health situation. Please accept my apology for the late response.

The Planning Inspectorate does not have power to intervene in an applicant's pre-application programme. The process for applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) is set out in the Planning Act 2008. The timing of the application is at the discretion of Highways England, the Applicant.

As you have concerns about the Applicant's pre-application consultation you should contact the Applicant in the first instance to enable them to address the issues. If you have contacted the Applicant but you are not satisfied that the Applicant has, or will, take account of your comments you can make your comments to the relevant local authority. The local authorities can consider your comments as part of their Adequacy of Consultation Representation submission to the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) at the Application Stage of the process. The Planning Inspectorate will consider any adequacy of consultation representations received from the relevant local authorities when deciding whether or not to accept the application, as required under section 55(4)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). It is therefore important to ensure the local authorities are informed of your concerns. Further information about Community Consultation can be found here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/General/General-Advice-00632-1-170702%20s47%20Community%20Consultation%20FAQ.pdf>

As you are aware the proposed application by Highways England is at the Pre-application stage of the Planning Act 2008 process. The Planning Inspectorate is unable to consider representations about the merits of any application until it is accepted for Examination. Further information about the process can be found in the link below to the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

Should the application be accepted then the application and all the supporting documentation will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/lower-thames-crossing/?ipcsection=overview>

The 'Registration and Relevant Representation form' will be made available here during the Pre-examination stage and all parties will have an opportunity to outline their views about the project. The appointed Examining Authority will then use these to carry out an initial assessment of principal issues. Further information about registering as an Interested Party can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination': <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

With regard to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, please refer to the Planning Inspectorate's published guidance which will be updated as the situation develops.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>

I hope you find the above information helpful.

Kind regards

Ewa Sherman

Case Officer

National Infrastructure Planning

The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

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From: Askew Lisa [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 March 2020 10:34

To: 'info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk' <info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>;
'ltc@highwaysengland.co.uk' <ltc@highwaysengland.co.uk>; Lower Thames Crossing
<LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Cc: 'GRice@thurrock.gov.uk' <GRice@thurrock.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Lower Thames Crossing Supplementary Consultation extended

My husband and I are very concerned that this consultation is still going ahead at this very difficult time. It is disappointing that it has merely been extended by 1 week and by holding a public telephone consultation you are alienating me as I have a hearing loss. By keeping your information points open you are also going against government advice for people to stay indoors, in addition most of the addresses are now closed.

My husband and I are key workers, I am NHS staff [REDACTED]. We cannot even think about the LTC consultation at a time like this, it is one stressful thing we can well do without, this would not be a fair and adequate consultation.

Please we are begging you, this consultation needs to be postponed until well after the Coronavirus crisis has passed and the country has recovered. It is unfair of Highways England to even think about plugging ahead with this now.

Mr and Mrs Askew
[REDACTED]

From: Lower Thames Crossing [<mailto:noreply@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>]

Sent: 19 March 2020 17:28

To: Askew Lisa

Subject: Lower Thames Crossing Supplementary Consultation extended

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.

Lower Thames Crossing: Your invitation to consultation



Lower Thames Crossing Supplementary Consultation

extended to 2 April 2020

We are providing you with an update on the Lower Thames Crossing Supplementary Consultation given the current situation with Coronavirus and the measures the Government has put in place.

The Supplementary Consultation on the changes we have made to the project's design since our 2018 Statutory Consultation, has been underway since 29 January. We are 7 weeks through the 8-week consultation period. We have completed more than 80% of our 22 events, with almost 4,000 people visiting 7 of the 8 Public Information Events (PIE), and 10 of the 13 Mobile Information Centres (MIC).

The current situation with Coronavirus is unprecedented and we have been giving careful consideration to how we support the Government's efforts to curb the spread of the virus, protecting the public and our staff, while also continuing our vital work to maintain, operate and improve England's strategic road network.

Following the Government's updated guidance issued on Monday we took the decision to cancel our last PIE and our remaining 3 MICs. While we have carried out the majority of our events, we recognise that some people may have not yet had the opportunity to speak to the team at an event. We also understand that the attentions of people and organisations will have been focused elsewhere over the past few days.

We are therefore taking two measures to respond to those issues.

Firstly, we have taken the decision to **extend the consultation until 23.59 on Thursday 2 April**.

This is to give people additional time to complete their consultation response and to enable organisations to complete their governance processes, which may have been disrupted.

Until that time people can continue to share their views:

- [Online](#)
- by submitting a paper response form to Freepost LTC CONSULTATION
- by emailing lrc.consultation@traverse.ltd

Secondly, we will be opening a public consultation telephone service between 2pm and 8pm, on Monday 23 March and Wednesday 25 March 2020. To access the telephone consultation service please call 020 3787 4300.

This will be for members of the public who had planned to go to the remaining events the opportunity to speak to a member of the project team about the changes we are consulting on.

How to have say

- All of our consultation materials are available on our [consultation website](#)
- Document deposit locations, which hold hard copies of all the materials, presently remain open
- Information points which hold the Guide to Consultation, Consultation Response Form and Freepost envelope, presently remain open
- We will also post out the Guide, Response Form and Freepost envelope on request by emailing us at info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk or calling on 0300 123 5000

This is an unprecedented and unsettling time and we want to thank you for your patience as we seek to manage the

inevitable disruption we are all facing, and the important work that must continue. This means we are having to work in different ways and use alternative approaches.

The development of the Lower Thames Crossing and other infrastructure projects will play an important role as the country seeks to recover from the wide range of impacts we face. It is critical that we maintain the progress of our projects and keep the momentum of delivery.

With kind regards

Alan Seywright
Project Director

If you have any questions, you can call our helpline on 0300 123 5000 between 9am and 5pm, or email lrc@highwaysengland.co.uk Monday to Saturday.

YouTube image



[Keep up to date with the Lower Thames Crossing](#)

Hear about the latest updates and news from the Lower Thames Crossing by joining the mailing list [here](#).



Phone: 0300 123 5000 (local rate call)

Email: info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk

Website: www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk

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