Associated British Ports
Ocean Gate
Atlantic Way
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 3QN

[redacted]

Planning
c/o
69
Slough
SL1 4PN

Buckingham

Inspectorate
QUADIENT
Avenue

15th October 2026

Dear Planning Inspectorate Team,

Subject: Solent Gateway 2 Project Update

We are continuing to progress our strategic plans to maintain Southampton's position as a leading UK and European port safeguarding the jobs, investment and economic prosperity that depend upon its continued success.

Strong customer demand is generating significant opportunities which require us to bring forward additional capacity sooner than is currently achievable through the DCO timeframe.

In response, we are reviewing how existing operational areas within the Port of Southampton and the Solent Gateway site can be optimised to deliver additional capacity in the short term and meet emerging market requirements.

Because of these revised priorities and delivery timescales, we have taken the decision to withdraw from the current Development Consent Order application for Solent Gateway 2.

Long term, we remain confident that there remains a strong need to develop Solent Gateway 2 to support the future growth and competitiveness of the Port of Southampton and we will continue to keep future development options under review.

We would be grateful if you could advise on the process and anticipated timing for updating the Planning Inspectorate's website to reflect the withdrawal of the application. Understanding how and when this information will be communicated publicly will assist us in coordinating our stakeholder and community engagement activities, ensuring that communications are clear, accurate, and aligned with the formal project status.

We would like to thank the Planning Inspectorate team for their constructive engagement and support throughout the project to date.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the project team at:

Kind regards,

[redacted], Sustainable Development Manager
Associated British Ports
[redacted]@abports.co.uk