

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Metrowest1](#)
Subject: Fwd: TR040011 – Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1 – Secretary of State's further consultation letter addressed to all interested parties dated 24 Nov 2021
Date: 01 December 2021 14:39:46

Hello,

Please find my responses to your email dated 30th Nov.

We are not opposed to the opening of the railway line but, in light of recent events, an alternative to old diesel trains must now be sought.

The climate impacts and studies that you have conducted are out of date and don't take into account a) the governments ban on new petrol and diesel cars in 2030, b) North Somerset's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030 and c) the impact of Covid and the increase in home working with associated impacts on reduced passenger numbers. It needs to be reassessed in light of the latest developments.

The use of diesel trains is in breach of the Paris Agreement 2015 and will lead to a net increase of overall carbon emissions. By 2030 it will be better for the environment to drive an electric car into Bristol than use a high polluting diesel train.

North Somerset declared a climate emergency in 2019 and the operation of diesel trains is in breach of your aims to become carbon neutral by 2030. The railway line will be a net emitter of carbon.

And furthermore, diesel trains will be parked right next to a primary school with the associated air quality impacts this will have on children's health. As you know the laws around this are now being tightened and enforced. The assessment that was conducted was biased and prorated the impacts over the time when diesel trains would not be at the station.

The new line presents and excellent opportunity for North Somerset to demonstrate its seriousness in moving towards a net carbon future with renewables and sustainability now at the heart of its decision making process.

Don't saddle the town with a high polluting diesel train for the next 20-30 years which will look obsolete very soon.

You know all this already and it is time to make to make the right decision.

Regards,
Mr. L. Bonham.