Wendy McKay
Lead Member of the Examining Authority
Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

2 November 2026

Dear Ms McKay

Application by Southern Water Services Limited for an order granting development consent for the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Portsmouth Water Limited's Response to the Rule 6 letter

Thank you for the Rule 6 letter dated 6 October 2026, in which you invite comments on certain matters relating to the forthcoming examination. We are grateful for the opportunity to make the following suggestions –

Written submissions on the examination procedure

Since Issue Specific Hearing 1 ("**ISH1**"), on the water environment, is taking place before the submission of Written Representations, the Examining Authority will not have had the opportunity to consider our representation in respect of the water environment in advance of ISH1. Owing to the importance of this issue to Portsmouth Water, we would suggest that a second water environment hearing is held in the next round of hearings, during the week commencing 11 January 2027.

Portsmouth Water notes the IAPI includes broad headings which are intended to capture issues in the Relevant Representations and, to that extent, Portsmouth Water does not seek to add to them; however, Portsmouth Water does wish to emphasise that it will be apparent from Portsmouth Water's Written Representation that there are multiple important issues that need to be considered under these headings.

Suggested locations for site inspections

Regarding suggested locations for site inspections, Portsmouth Water would suggest that each member of the Examining Authority ("**ExA**") should visit the following sites –

i. the location of the Havant Thicket Reservoir construction area. Portsmouth Water notes that one member of the ExA has inspected this site already and considers it would be helpful if each member did so.
ii. Portsmouth Water's operational site at Bedhampton Springs (one of the more than 100 locations where the authorised development interfaces with Portsmouth

Water's assets). This site is important because the Applicant proposes that its connection infrastructure would be developed at Bedhampton Springs to connect into Portsmouth Water's pipelines; and

iii. the George Reservoir and adjacent land, whose proposed acquisition is a matter of concern for Portsmouth Water (**[RR-253]** section 5.7).

Arrangements for the preliminary meeting and Open Floor Hearing 1

Portsmouth Water wishes to be heard at the preliminary meeting and has completed the event participation form. While Portsmouth Water does not intend to participate in Open Floor Hearing 1, some of its employees intend to attend on a watching brief.

Portsmouth Water also wishes to be heard at ISH1. Again, the event participation form has been completed.

If you have any queries about the content of this letter, please contact [redacted].

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

On behalf of Portsmouth Water Limited