Planning Inspectorate

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To: The applicant

Our Ref: WA010002

Date: 17 November 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – rule 17

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

Request for further information

We are writing under rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010.

Proposed mitigation strategy for direct impacts from loss of functionally linked land of the Chichester and Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site (loss of Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy site H08 due to construction of Work No. 1, water recycling plant).

The mitigation approach is described in section 4.1 of the applicant's HRA – Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment report [AS-012]. Requirement 17 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP-023] requires written details of the land being secured and management measures to be approved prior to commencement of Work No. 1. However, it appears that there is a separate mitigation strategy document with further detail that has not yet been submitted into the examination.

Natural England, in its relevant representation [RR-222], has requested that the mitigation strategy be provided to the Examining Authority (ExA) as soon as possible to provide greater certainty.

We request that the applicant provide that mitigation strategy at deadline 1 or specify when it will be submitted.

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The strategy should include:

- the location and area of the mitigation site or sites, shown on a plan
- the timing of delivery
- how the site or sites would be managed and by whom
- monitoring arrangements and any remedial measures
- how the mitigation would be secured, including the status of any section 106 agreement or conservation covenant

The applicant should clarify in the mitigation strategy whether it is also intended to mitigate indirect effects to functionally linked land of the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA and Ramsar site, including the Solent Wader and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) sites H90, and if so, what measures are proposed in this respect.

Responses should be submitted by **deadline 1 (23 November 2026).**

Yours faithfully

Wendy McKay

Wendy McKay
Lead member of the panel of Examining Inspectors

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