



## **Proposed DCO Application by Affinity Water and Severn Trent for Grand Union Canal Transfer**

### **Royal Mail response to EIA Scoping Consultation**

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom. The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

Royal Mail's performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project. Accordingly, Royal Mail seeks to take all reasonable steps to protect its assets and operational interests from any potentially adverse impacts of proposed development.

Royal Mail and its advisor Strutt & Parker/BNP Paribas Real Estate have reviewed the EIA Scoping Report dated March 2025. There are over 40 operational Royal Mail properties within 10km of the proposed scheme.

The construction of this infrastructure proposal has been identified as having potential to impact on Royal Mail operational interests, particularly given the impact the proposed development could have on the Strategic Road Network. However, at this point in time Royal Mail is not able to provide a consultation response due to insufficient information being available to adequately assess the level of risk to its operation and the available mitigations for any risk. Consequently, Royal Mail wishes to reserve its position to submit a consultation response/s at a later stage in the consenting process and to give evidence at any future Public Examination, if required.

In the meantime, any further consultation information on this infrastructure proposal and any questions of Royal Mail should be sent to:

██████████ (██████████@royalmail.com), Senior Planning Lawyer, Royal Mail Group Limited.

██████████ (██████████@struttandparker.com), Senior Planner, Strutt & Parker.

Please can you confirm receipt of this holding statement by Royal Mail.

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