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Mr T. Martin Blaiklock
182 Broom Road
Teddington
Middlesex
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: WW010001

Date: 17 April 2014

Dear Mr Blaiklock

Application for Development Consent by Thames Water Utilities Ltd for the Thames Tideway Tunnel

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2014 to the Special Adviser to the Rt Hon Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, regarding the application for development consent for the Thames Tideway Tunnel nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP). As the Secretary of State is, together with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the final decision maker on this application, it would be inappropriate for him to comment on the detail of your letter as to do so may prejudice his ultimate role as decision maker. As this NSIP application is currently with the Planning Inspectorate and the examination has now closed your letter has been passed to me to reply.

As you are aware, this application was examined by the Examining Authority consisting of a Panel of five appointed Examining Inspectors. I am aware that the issues raised in your letter with regard to the cost benefit analysis of the Tunnel option have been put before the Panel at examination hearings by Professor Chris Binnie and others. The Panel are, therefore, fully informed of these concerns, however, as you state in your letter, it was not the purpose of the examination to consider the merits of Government Policy as set out in the designated Waste Water National Policy Statement (NPS).

For the avoidance of doubt, your letter of 24 March, has not been passed to the Panel that is examining the Thames Tideway Tunnel application. Now that the examination has closed no further representations will be passed to the Panel.

Following the close of the examination period, the Panel has a period of three months to write their recommendation report for submission to the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The

7. Panel will consider the representations made by interested parties and others received during the examination, when formulating their recommendation, including on whether or not the Secretaries of State should grant an order on different terms to that originally applied for, within the terms of the NPS. Following the submission of the Panel's recommendation report the Secretaries of State will have three months in which to consider the recommendation and make a decision.

Given the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government's statutory decision-making role in this process, I trust that you understand why I have replied to your letter, and why it would be inappropriate for the Secretaries of State to respond to you directly.

Yours sincerely,
MS

Mark Southgate
Director of Major Applications and Plans

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.