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30 November 2023

**FAO Victoria Lucas and Yvonne Wright,  
Inspectors appointed to examine the Stroud Local Plan Review**

Dear Ms Lucas and Ms Wright,

**Your Ref: ID-013, dated 24 October 2023  
Stroud District Local Plan Review Examination**

Thank you for your letter dated 24 October 2023 (Your ref. ID-013) requesting additional comment from National Highways in respect of the Stroud District Local Plan (SDLP) Review Examination.

National Highways has continued to work collaboratively with Stroud District Council and its consultant (Aecom) throughout the Local Plan process, including written and verbal representations during the regulation 18 and 19 stages and at the Examination in Public (EIP) hearing sessions.

We have provided a separate response to your letter reference ID-012 dated 2 October 2023 addressing the matter of Appendix 2 AC6 "Note on Housing supply which could be delivered before impacts on M5 Junction 12 (J12) and Junction 14 (J14) would require mitigation".

We had previously written to you to state that we had not been consulted on this submission and we were concerned that the Appendix 2 could be misinterpreted as it had not been agreed with National Highways before submission to the EIP. Our letter ref. ID-012 dated 30 November 2023 states that National Highways has agreed to undertake capacity testing at M5 J12 and J14 to determine a quantum of traffic that can be accommodated at the respective junctions before improvement of these junctions is required.

The following paragraphs refer to other items in your letter ID-013 dated 24 October 2023 inviting comment from National Highways.

**M5 J14 Scheme Sponsor**

Our current understanding is that Stroud District Council has agreed to progress with design work and cost estimate for an improvement at M5 J14 to the same level of detail and to a similar

programme as that to be completed by Gloucestershire County Council at M5 J12 i.e. concept design stage.

The programme for these junctions has been discussed jointly with National Highways, Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council. Stroud District Council will write to the Inspectors on this matter.

#### SDLP Joint Action Plan – M5 J12 and J14

National Highways has been involved in the development of and has provided its comments on the proposed SDLP Joint Action Plan regarding M5 J12 and J14. Stroud District Council will write to the Inspectors on this matter.

#### The Level of Certainty required to indicate infrastructure delivery

National Highways is seeking to be satisfied that vehicular traffic impacts from proposed local plan development allocations can be appropriately accommodated at M5 J12 and J14.

1. We require certainty that the proposed mitigation can be delivered within the existing highway boundary, and/or that land can be obtained through land purchase or third-party agreement or if a CPO is required.
2. We need clarification of whether the required mitigation is a 'major' or 'minor' scheme.
3. We need to be satisfied that the estimated scheme costs and the proposed or assumed funding plan is realistic and affordable.
4. We need to be satisfied that all potential showstoppers have been identified and that any adverse impact can be satisfactorily mitigated, e.g. environmental matters, fibre optic cables, pipelines, etc.

National Highways is committed to continued collaborative working with Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and South Gloucestershire Council leading to the adoption of a sound Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

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