

APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED NETWORK RAIL (OXFORD STATION PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS (LAND ONLY)) ORDER

TRANSPORT AND WORKS (INQUIRIES PROCEDURE) RULES 2004

STATEMENT OF MATTERS

This statement relates to the public inquiry to be held into the application by Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (“NR”) for the above Order under the Transport and Works Act 1992 (“TWA”).

The TWA Order application will be determined by the Secretary of State for Transport. This statement sets out under rule 7(6) of the Transport and Works (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2004 the matters about which the Secretary of State for Transport particularly wishes to be informed about in their consideration of these applications. These matters are as follows:

- 1. The aims and objectives of, and the need for, the proposed Oxford Station Phase 2 improvements (“the scheme”).**
- 2. The main alternatives to compulsory acquisition considered by NR for meeting the objectives of the scheme.**
- 3. The likely impact of the exercise of the powers in the proposed TWA Order on local businesses, residents and visitors. Consideration under this heading should include:**
 - (a) The likely impact of the TWA Order, including the re-routing of Roger Dudman Way, on the local road networks, including access arrangements and parking and the blue light routes for emergency traffic;**
 - (b) The likely impact of the TWA Order on Oxford University;**
 - (c) The likely impact of any removal of the Osney Lane to Mill Street bridge during construction works;**
 - (d) The likely impact on the Co-op Children’s Nursery.**
- 4. The effects of the scheme on statutory undertakers, statutory utilities and other utility providers, and their ability to carry out their undertakings effectively, safely and in compliance with any statutory or contractual obligations and the protective provisions afforded to them.**
- 5. Having regard to the criteria for justifying compulsory purchase powers in paragraphs 12 to 15 of the MHCLG Guidance on the “Compulsory purchase process and the Crichel Down Rules for the disposal of surplus land acquired by, or under the threat of, compulsion” published on 29 October 2015 (as amended on 16 July 2019):-**
 - (a) whether there is a compelling case in the public interest to justify conferring on NR powers to compulsorily acquire and use land for the purposes of the scheme.**

(b) whether the purposes for which the compulsory purchase powers are sought are sufficient to justify interfering with the human rights of those with an interest in the land affected (having regard to Human Rights Act);

(c) whether there are likely to be any impediments to NR exercising the powers contained within the Order, including the availability of funding;

(d) whether all the land and rights over land which NR has applied for is necessary to implement the scheme.

6. Whether all statutory procedural requirements have been complied with.

7. Any other matters which may be raised at the inquiry which may be important and relevant to the Secretary of State decision.

Notes

It should be noted that whilst the above matters appear to the Secretary of State, from the evidence so far available, to be the principal ones that need to be addressed, this statement does not preclude the inquiry Inspector from hearing evidence on any other matters that he/she may consider relevant to the consideration of the application. In addition, this statement does not pre-determine the order in which issues are to be addressed at the inquiry, nor does the numbering imply any order of importance.

More detail on the Public Inquiry process can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-and-works-act-orders-a-brief-guide-2006/transport-and-works-act-orders-a-brief-guide>.

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