

TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992

NETWORK RAIL (OLD OAK COMMON GREAT WESTERN MAIN LINE TRACK ACCESS) ORDER

LOCAL PUBLIC INQUIRY

Inspector: Malcolm Rivett BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI

Programme Officer: Joanna Vincent BA (Hons)

Norton Rose Fulbright

Addleshaw Goddard

(by email)

22 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Request to direct disclosure of evidence

I refer to your letters of 15 January and 18 January respectively concerning the above. It is very unfortunate and disappointing that the Inquiry has reached this point.

Directing disclosure of evidence would be a very unusual and significant step and is, therefore, not something I would do lightly. Consequently, before reaching a decision on this I need to ask questions of both parties as to the case for and against, and the potential implications of, directing disclosure.

The earliest date at which I am able hold this discussion is 1 February 2024, the date set aside for the roundtable discussion following the closure of the ongoing consultation. I do not envisage that there will be enough time to hold both discussions on the same day and, in any case, the discussion of the Order itself will clearly be dependent on my decision on the disclosure of evidence.

This will inevitably delay completion of the Inquiry, and until 1 February, at least, it will not be possible to set out a revised timetable for its completion. This is also very unfortunate but I do not see that there is any other option given the circumstances.

Yours faithfully

Malcolm Rivett

INSPECTOR