



# Department for Transport

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Our Ref: TWA 2/2/140 (Essex)  
Your Ref: HXA/18136/633

15 March 2017

Hazel Anderson  
Winckworth Sherwood LLP  
Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents  
Minerva House  
5 Montague Close  
London  
SE1 9BB

Dear Ms Anderson,

## **TRANSPORT AND WORKS (APPLICATIONS AND OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND AND WALES) RULES 2006: REQUEST FOR A SCREENING DECISION**

### **PROPOSED NETWORK RAIL (ESSEX, ETC. LEVEL CROSSING REDUCTION) ORDER**

I refer to your letter of 31 January 2017 to Robert Fox in this Unit in which you requested a screening decision under rule 7 of the above Rules as to whether an environmental impact assessment is required in respect of the proposed works relating to the closure of, and/or changes to rights at 63 level crossings in Essex and the creation of alternative routes.

Views on this request have been sought from all the necessary bodies set out under 7(8) the above rules and listed in your letter of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

Responses were received from Natural England, Essex County Council, Hertfordshire County Council, London Borough of Havering, Castle Point District Council, Chelmsford City Council, Colchester Borough Council, Harlow District Council, Uttlesford District Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Thurrock Council. The Environment Agency set out that they no longer offer opinions on screening consultations. A copy of these responses are enclosed for your information.

The Secretary of State considers that the proposals described in your request should be regarded as a project of a type mentioned in Annex II to Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

In considering whether an environmental impact assessment is required, the Secretary of State has taken into account the screening report enclosed with your letter (Anglia Level Crossing Reduction Strategy: EIA Screening Request: Essex and Others Order 367516/RPT25 Revision B of 30 January 2017), the views provided by those consulted and the selection criteria referred to in rule 7(11) of the above Rules. The Secretary of State notes that whilst three councils considered that an environmental impact assessment is required, no evidence has been provided that the proposed development would have a significant impact on the environment. Having regard to the characteristics and locations of the project and the type and characteristics of potential impacts, on the basis of the available

information the Secretary of State has no reason to disagree with the conclusions of the screening report and considers that this project is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.

In accordance with rule 7(13) of the above Rules, **the Secretary of State's screening decision is that an environmental impact assessment is not required** in relation to the project which is to be subject of the above proposed Order.

Yours sincerely,

**Natasha Kopala**