

A55 Chester to Bangor J14&J15 and J16&J16A

PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

www.A55J14J15-publicinquiry.co.uk

www.A55J16J16A-publicinquiry.co.uk

Inspector:

HYWEL W JONES BA (Hons) BTP MRTPI

Programme Officer:

TRACEY SMITH

✉ po.traceysmith@outlook.com

☎ 07763 422801

[Respondent / Agent]

Respondent ID:

29 July 2021

Dear Respondent,

THE CHESTER TO BANGOR TRUNK ROAD (A55) (JUNCTIONS 14 & 15 AND JUNCTIONS 16 & 16A IMPROVEMENT REALIGNMENT AND SLIP ROADS) SCHEMES & ASSOCIATED SIDE ROADS & COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDERS – PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

I refer to the Welsh Government's letter dated 25 May 2021 informing you that the Welsh Ministers have decided to hold a Public Local Inquiry ('PLI') into the Orders relating to the above schemes. The Inquiry will be held by Mr H W Jones BA (Hons) BTP MRTPI, an Inspector appointed for the purpose by the Welsh Government on nomination by the Planning Inspectorate.

Following the Pre-Inquiry Meeting ('PIM') held on the above matter on 27 July 2021, I am writing to all respondents to introduce myself as the Programme Officer. My role is to assist the Inspector with the arrangements for the Inquiry which will commence on 21 September 2021, and I will be the main point of contact for all parties: po.traceysmith@outlook.com. Although I will be unavailable for several weeks commencing in early August, alternative arrangements are in hand and an out of office notification from my email address and mobile will give the relevant contact details during my absence. *

The Inspector's Note of the PIM has now been published and is attached. The Note outlines how the Inquiry will be conducted and the procedures to be followed. The Note also sets out how and when evidence is to be prepared and presented by all parties. All parties should read this document carefully as it contains important information about the Inquiry including deadlines for submissions.

Given the current COVID-19 situation, it is anticipated that Inquiry sessions will be conducted on a hybrid basis with the Inspector and a few members of the Welsh Government team attending in person with most other participants and observers doing so virtually. Attendance in person at the Inquiry to give evidence may be accommodated if requested (in line with social distancing measures). This would of course be subject to the relevant COVID-19 guidance in place when the Inquiry begins. I will confirm the arrangements with Respondents nearer the time.

Anyone wishing to observe the Inquiry sessions is encouraged to do so virtually and should contact me for further details. Depending on capacity, it may be possible for some observers to attend the venue by prior arrangement. The sessions for the Inquiry will commence on **Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 10am** and will be based at **Conwy Business Centre, Junction Way, Llandudno Junction LL31 9XX**.

To assist us with the programming of the Inquiry, Respondents should indicate to me by 20 August 2021 whether they wish to be heard at the Inquiry or are content to deal with their representations in writing. Further guidance is provided in the Note of PIM.

If you do wish to be heard at the Inquiry, please include the following details:

Respondent Name:

Respondent ID (shown at the top of this letter):

Contact Name:

Email & Tel:

Agent Name (if you have one):

Agent Email:

Estimated time required to present evidence:

Do you intend to submit a Proof of Evidence (deadline 31 Aug):

Do you wish to question Welsh Government Witnesses, if so who:

Will you have legal representation, if so who:

Please note that if you do not want to appear at the Inquiry your written representations will be taken into consideration by the Inspector and the Welsh Ministers unless you confirm in writing that you wish to withdraw any previous comments.

Respondents wishing to submit proofs of evidence to the Inquiry, should do so by **midday on 31 August 2021**. All proofs of evidence / submissions should be sent digitally to me via email at po.traceysmith@outlook.com – please note these will be published online as part of the Inquiry library, subject to any redaction that may be necessary because of data protection legislation. Please refer to the Note of PIM for further details on the submission of evidence. You are of course entitled to rely on your original letter/representation, but it would be helpful to the Inquiry if you could advise us of that by the deadline of 20 August 2021.

The Inquiry websites including document libraries for J14&J15 and J16&J16A are now live and will be updated as the Inquiry progresses. Respondents should check the websites regularly for the latest information, including changes to the programme at:

www.A55J14J15-publicinquiry.co.uk

www.A55J16J16A-publicinquiry.co.uk

All of the Orders and related documentation can also be found at the Welsh Government's webpage <https://a55engagement.gov.wales/>

I have included a link to the Welsh Government document 'Public Inquiries into Road Proposals', which explains in simple terms the arrangements and procedures for public inquiries held into road proposals (<https://gov.wales/understanding-public-inquiries-road-proposals>).

Correspondence in both Welsh and English is welcomed, and non-technical Inquiry documents will be available bilingually. Translation facilities will be available at the Inquiry for those who wish to communicate using the Welsh language.

Respondents who require a paper copy of any documents referred to in this letter or have specific requirements and require assistance during the Inquiry should contact me in advance. If you are unable to communicate via email or submit documents digitally please contact me via telephone on 07763 422801 to make alternative arrangements.

Any queries you may have regarding the Inquiry should be directed to me.

KEY DATES:

- 24 August 2021 – Welsh Government publish their Statement of Case (and accompanying Proofs of Evidence) for the Schemes.
- 31 August 2021 – Respondents' Proofs of Evidence should be submitted to the Programme Officer.
- 7 September 2021 – Deadline for submission of Alternative Routes to the Programme Officer.
- 14 September 2021 – Welsh Government to issue their rebuttals to any Proofs of Evidence submitted.
- 21 September 2021 – Inquiry sessions begin.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,
Tracey Smith

Programme Officer

Enclosed:
Inspector's Note of PIM

** PO out of office notification - Please note that I will be unavailable from 6 to 20 August 2021, but will respond to all correspondence and voicemails on my return. Anything regarding inquiry attendance and procedures, and/or programming of inquiry sessions for the above mentioned Public Local Inquiry in September can wait until then. However, if the matter is urgent and requires an immediate response, please email laura.foster@ramboll.co.uk or call 07583110339.*