



Our Ref: qA1420023
Date: 05 August 2021

Dear Sir and Madam

THE CHESTER TO BANGOR TRUNK ROAD (A55) (JUNCTIONS 16 AND 16A IMPROVEMENT REALIGNMENT AND SLIP ROADS) ORDER 202-

THE CHESTER TO BANGOR TRUNK ROAD (A55) (JUNCTIONS 16 AND 16A IMPROVEMENT REALIGNMENT AND SLIP ROADS) (SIDE ROADS) ORDER 202

(Ref A55J16J16A-OBJ3)

I refer to your email dated 9 May and the acknowledgement email from Welsh Government dated 12 May. Please note that your email has been registered as an Objection and you should have received a Welsh Government letter dated 25 May 2021 confirming that a Public Local Inquiry is to be held.

You have raised a number of points of concern in your email which I have responded to below.

1. Communication

I understand from your email that you do not feel that you have been kept updated as you would have wished since the public consultation event in 2019 and that you should have been prioritised. Since the consultation event work has been ongoing to develop the scheme to take account of concerns raised culminating in the publication of the Draft Orders in March 2021 which is the next step in the statutory process after the public consultation. I appreciate that this feels like a long time, but it is the next opportunity for affected parties to have their say, this time on the published scheme. Notices were correctly and fairly issued to all affected parties at the same time, as everyone must have the same length of time to respond.

Following the online Webinar which was held on 5 May a commitment was made to organise a meeting with Maes Y Llan residents to obtain their views, which was held on the evening of 6 July. I would like to thank you for attending as we are very grateful for the helpful input from the local residents. As we said at the time, and in my follow-up letter dated 9 July, we will be in touch to explain how we are going to respond to the feedback.

For future reference please note that you can find Project Updates on the A55 Junctions 14/15 & 16/16A Engagement website at the following link: [Project Updates \(gov.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/project-updates).

2. Choice of layout

You also say that at the 2019 consultation you objected to the choice of the new road layout as you thought that *“this layout had the biggest impact on the residents who are living nearest to this road, especially the extra traffic which will be passing.”* Your views, along with those of everyone responding to the consultation, were taken into consideration in the further development of the scheme but I hope you can appreciate that it is the assessment of the overall balance of benefits and negative impacts of the whole scheme that will determine which layout is taken forwards.

The decision-making process, including an appraisal of the options presented at the public consultation in 2019, is set out in the Outline Business Case Report. This report was included as Appendix 3.2 of the Environmental Statement and can be found in “Environmental Statement: volume 3a appendices 2 to 5” on the Welsh Government website at the following link: [A55: junctions 16 and 16a | GOV.WALES](#)

3. Help and support for residents during construction

As noted above a Public Local Inquiry will be held into this Scheme. An inquiry is a review by an independent Inspector before a final decision is made whether to build it. This final decision will be made by the Welsh Minister based on the Inspector’s Recommendation Report.

I appreciate your concerns about impacts from noise, vibrations, smells, fumes, smoke and artificial lighting and the impact of these on you and your property during construction.

If the scheme goes ahead all construction work would be completed in accordance with best practice to minimise the effects of noise, dust and construction traffic and will need to comply with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Work would only be carried out during hours to be agreed with the local authority.

Community liaison and communication regarding construction works would be undertaken throughout the construction stage to provide information to people residing in properties located in the vicinity of the construction works (including yourselves) and reduce the likelihood of adverse effects on the local community. The level of engagement required would vary during the construction period, depending upon the expected effects experienced by individual receptors due to the construction works.

Details relating to liaison with the local community would be managed by the contractor. It is envisaged that community liaison would provide local residents with the following information in relation to the construction works:

- The nature of the works being undertaken;
- The expected duration of the works;
- The contractor’s working hours;
- Mitigation measures that have been adopted to minimise noise and vibration, as detailed in the CEMP; and
- Contact details in the event of a noise disturbance.

Please note that full details of impacts during construction are recorded in the Environmental Statement which can be found on the Welsh Government Website at the following link: [A55: junctions 16 and 16a | GOV.WALES](#).

4. Health Impacts

I also appreciate that you are concerned about the future effects of the impacts of the scheme on your health. Chapter 18 of the Environmental Statement (ES) covers the impact of the scheme on population and health during both construction and operation. More specifically, Technical Appendix 18.1 contains the Health Impact Assessment and this can be found in Volume 3c of the ES: [A55 junctions 16 and 16a environmental statement: volume 3c appendices 7 to 18 | GOV.WALES](#)

This chapter draws information from a number of the other ES chapters shown in Table 18.4 of the ES (see below for full list) including Air Quality and Noise and Vibration. The chapter concludes that with the proposed mitigation “*There are considered to be no residual significant adverse effects related to Human Health*” (ES Chapter 18 Paragraph 18.11.3).

Table 18.4 Links to Other ES Chapters

Chapter	Key Aspects Relevant to Population and Health
Chapter 6 Geology and Soils	Contaminated soils and water
Chapter 7 Road Drainage and Environment	Flooding
Chapter 9 Landscape, Townscape and Visual Effects	Landscape design, loss of views
Chapter 11 Community Assets	Severance
Chapter 12 Air Quality	Reduced, or improved air quality
Chapter 13 Noise and Vibration	Reduced, or increased noise levels
Chapter 14 All Travellers	Severance, relief from existing severance, driver stress
Chapter 16 Climate Change	Exposure to contaminants and dust, high temperatures, heatwaves
Chapter 17 Major Accident and Disaster	Major accidents and hazards and road traffic accidents
Chapter 20 Management of Environmental Effects	Summary of mitigation measures

5. Impact on value of your property

As your property is outside of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), you may be eligible to claim Part 1 Compensation.

Compensation for injurious affection under Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973, may be payable where the value of a property has depreciated as a result of public development, and where no part of the property has been taken for the development (no land acquired). The claim for depreciation has to be for more than £50, caused by noise or other physical factors such as dust fumes, emissions and artificial lighting arising from the use of the development. Personal inconveniences, a loss of view or physical factors arising during construction of the road, are not included under part 1 compensation.

To satisfy the eligibility criteria for Part 1 the claimant must:

- i. Have acquired the property before the relevant date. The relevant date will be the date the road opened to traffic;
- ii. Must own/live at the property which is the subject of the claim, as their place of residence on the date they make the claim. A claim can be made one year after the road has been opened to the public, this provides time for the claimant to fully quantify their claim.

Should your claim be successful, Welsh Government would pay your fair and reasonable agents fees, which would be a matter for discussion with Welsh Government's agent.

I would also advise that if you consider the enjoyment of your home is/will be seriously affected by the proposal, you may ask the Welsh Ministers to buy it even though it is not needed for the proposed scheme. I would advise that each application for discretionary purchase is considered on its merits.

I hope I have satisfactorily addressed the points you have raised.

Should you require clarification, or wish to discuss matters further, please contact Rob Griffiths of Ramboll for technical queries as follows: Tel: 07918 720458 / Email: Robert.Griffiths@ramboll.co.uk. If your query relates solely to compensation matters please contact Mrs Sian Dawes of the Welsh Government Land Acquisition Team Email: Sian.Dawes@gov.wales.

Yours faithfully

James Healey. B.Eng. C.Eng. MHKIE. MICE.

Project Engineer – A55 Junctions 15/16 Improvement Scheme

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