



York Potash Harbour Facilities Order

Written representation to the Examination by Royal
Mail Group Ltd (Deadline 3)

2 October 2015

Introduction

As a statutory consultee, Royal Mail Group Ltd (Royal Mail) wishes to register an objection to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application by York Potash Ltd for the proposed York Potash Harbour Facilities Order scheme.

Royal Mail briefly sets out its position below and requests that the Examination has due regard to the content of this written representation.

Royal Mail is concerned that its future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivery service to the public in accordance with its statutory obligations may be adversely affected during the construction of the proposed York Potash Harbour Facilities Order scheme.

Included in this brief document are:

- details of relevant Royal Mail operational information, and
- a summary of Royal Mail's current position on the scheme.

Operational information

Royal Mail is responsible for providing efficient mail sorting and delivery nationally. As the Universal Service Provider under the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has a statutory duty to deliver mail to every residential and business address in the country as well as collecting mail from all Post Offices and post boxes six days a week.

Royal Mail's postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. Royal Mail's ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network.

Royal Mail is a major road user nationally. Disruption to the highway network and traffic delays can have direct consequences on Royal Mail's operations to meet the Universal Service Obligation and comply with the regulatory regime for postal services, thereby presenting a significant risk to Royal Mail's business.

In exercising its statutory duties, Royal Mail uses on a daily basis all the roads that will be affected by the construction of the York Potash Harbour Facilities Order.

The construction of the proposed harbour facilities alongside the other elements of the York Potash Project may cause operational disruption to Royal Mail operations through traffic delays, most likely on the A1085 and A66, with traffic being generated by construction staff, civil and mechanical works traffic and abnormal loads.

If such traffic disruption were to occur during the construction phase, the local Royal Mail operational properties that would be most susceptible to disruption through traffic delay during the construction phase are:

1. Redcar Delivery Office, Malmo Court, Redcar TS10 5RD
2. Middlesbrough Central Delivery Office, Cannon Park Way Middlesbrough TS11AA
3. Coulby Newham Delivery Office, Ridgeway, Middlesbrough TS8 0UD
4. Cleveland Delivery Office, Raleigh Court Middlesbrough TS2 1RA

Delivery Offices (DOs) typically generate four different categories of traffic:

- a. Strategic delivery/collection of mail (principally via the motorway system and A roads).
- b. Local delivery/collection by van (via all road types).
- c. Employee trips (via all road types).
- d. Public trips (via all road types).

Summary of Royal Mail's current position on the proposed York Potash Harbour Facilities Order

Royal Mail supports the principle of the proposed York Potash Harbour Facilities Order scheme, but Royal Mail is concerned about the potential for disruption to its mail collection, transport and delivery during the scheme's construction period. Any such disruption on the surrounding highway network, could affect Royal Mail's future ability to provide an efficient mail sorting and delivery service to the public in accordance with its statutory obligations. Clearly, this presents a risk to Royal Mail's business.

In order to address this identified risk to its business, Royal Mail requests that in advance of construction works taking place York Potash Ltd should fully consult with all major road users, including Royal Mail. Royal Mail requests that these consultations should cover traffic management proposals and ensure the provision of advance information on programmed construction activities to enable Royal Mail to instigate contingency measures, if required.

To conclude, until such a time as it can be shown that either Royal Mail operations will not be adversely affected by the construction of the York Potash Harbour Facilities Order scheme, or the construction impact on Royal Mail's operations can be fully mitigated through appropriate consultation and traffic management measures, then Royal Mail's objection will be maintained.

Royal Mail reserves the right to alter its position or make further representations in due course once the above highlighted issues have been addressed by York Potash Ltd and an opinion is provided by Royal Mail's consultants on whether the action taken satisfactorily addresses its above stated concerns.

Royal Mail requests that this brief representation is taken into account by the Examination in determining York Potash Ltd's DCO application.

Should any queries or information requests arise then please contact Holly Trotman of Royal Mail (holly.trotman@royalmail.com) in the first instance.