

**Mr David Williams**  
**Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

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Sir Mark Worthington  
Independent Construction Commissioner

My Ref: DW-028/CM

Your Ref:

Date: 14 January 2021

Dear Sir Mark

### **Submission of Evidence to Support Residents' Complaints at Hints**

I set out here the key complaints received by the County Council from the residents of Hints, Lichfield, in relation to the disturbance they have been subject to for the past several months due to HS2 works in the village. The works were undertaken by the lead enabling works contractor for Phase One, Laing Murphy.

Beginning in September 2020, residents have contacted the County Council regularly to make me aware of the following issues:

- Vehicles accessing the compound via Hints village, rather than via the routes set out and consulted upon in the Environmental Statement.
- A lack of any communication with residents on the above.
- Vehicles accessing the compound through the village outside the times permitted by the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP), mandatory on all contractors.

When these issues were raised with HS2 Ltd., a response was supplied after some weeks which I include here as Appendix 1, along with a rebuttal. The response denied any wrongdoing by the contractor and the complaint was consequently escalated to you.

Following the mediation meeting you kindly arranged on 11 November 2020, some agreement was reached on two of the three complaints above. Both Cadent Gas and Balfour Beatty Vinci have confirmed that they will access their works directly from Watling Street, barring for some Ground Investigation surveys. They also acknowledged the serious lack of communication with residents and have pledged to improve this. However, they do not acknowledge that sending vehicles through the village as early as



5:30 a.m. is a breach of the CoCP. The County Council disputes this in the strongest possible terms.

As a member of the Planning Forum which was heavily involved in the creation and approval of this document, I can confirm that the intention of local authorities was that it should provide protection to residents from disturbance between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

As you are aware, the majority of the Phase 2a route is in Staffordshire, and our county and residents will be heavily impacted by works such as those in Hints for many years to come. It is not acceptable to us that they should receive no protection from early or late disturbance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I hope the evidence provided here, and at Appendices 1 and 2 will enable you to reach a view on application of the CoCP going forward.

Yours sincerely



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