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Your Ref:
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2RD
Date: 5th April 2018

Dear Mr Relton

Filming at Aylesbury Estate Compulsory Purchase Inquiry

In a ruling on filming at the inquiry on 31 January 2018 the appointed Inspector decided not to allow further filming because the question of filming was disrupting the smooth running of the Inquiry.

During the adjournment of the inquiry this ruling has been reconsidered. The Inspector recognises that in principle filming is desirable in the interests of openness and transparency. But the Inspector has to balance the public's wish to film proceedings against the need for the inquiry to proceed without disruption. The Inspector's view is that the number of people wishing to film the Inquiry would cause disruption because of the effect on witnesses of being filmed by multiple cameras/phones (especially where people are filmed in close up). The Inspector considers that filming in this manner would adversely affect the quality of the evidence given at the Inquiry and not be in the interests of justice. The Inspector also considers that filming by many people would cause disruption in terms of people moving around the Inquiry room in order to film.

In order to prevent disruption the Inspector is minded to restrict the number of cameras filming and the way in which filming takes place. Before making his ruling on the way in which filming of the rest of the Inquiry is to take place, the Inspector requests comments in writing from anyone interested in this issue within 7 days.

To date the Inquiry has been filmed by a single fixed camera for the purpose of providing a live video link to an outside area of the Inquiry for those not wishing to be in the Inquiry venue. The Inspector's preliminary view is that this single fixed camera should be used to film the remainder of the inquiry.

Thereafter the film should be made available as a public record of the event. The Inspector is also minded to allow filming of all of the remainder of the Inquiry in this manner, subject to his residual discretion to prevent filming which would be disruptive of any particular part of the proceedings. As matters stand, the Inspectorate considers that filming in the manner described in this paragraph would not give rise to unacceptable disruption.

Upon receipt of any written comments within 7 days the Inspector will make his procedural ruling governing filming of the remainder of the inquiry and all parties will be notified of his decision.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Seaman

Group Manager Planning