



House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Andrew Haines
Chief Executive
Network Rail
1 Eversholt Street
London
NW1 2DN

Our Ref: ZA93768

7 July 2020

Dear Andrew,

Re: Proposed Train Carriage Wash Facility at Cambridge Rail Station

I am writing on behalf of residents of Great Eastern Street in my constituency regarding the proposed train carriage wash facility to be built at Cambridge Rail Station sidings. These residents have formed a group called 'Quash the Train Wash' (Quash) to advocate why the facility would be harmful to the surrounding residential area.

I have previously written to executives at Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) in respect of concerns they had about the process undertaken by Network Rail and the various stakeholders involved in moving forward with the facility. (This letter and GTR's response are included with this correspondence.)

Quash strongly believe that the case simply has not been proven by the stakeholders in determining the works do not require planning permission. They have sought independent legal advice to question the interpretation of planning law used by the stakeholders. It is suggested that the works do not fall under the definition of a 'permitted development' and, as a result, requires a full planning application to be submitted for the consideration of the local planning authority (Cambridge City Council).

With this legal opinion presented, Quash would therefore like all works to be suspended until at least such time the stakeholders provide updated, suitable and full answers to the questions that have been previously submitted by Cambridge City Council in February of this year.

The residents also would like Network Rail, and the associated rail franchisees, to provide a full and frank account for why the carriage wash facility was proposed for the main Cambridge rail station and not further up the line nearer Cambridge North. To assist with this response, they ask for disclosure of the complete options appraisal that was used to make the decision to site the facility at the former over the latter station.

I look forward to receiving your response to the matters discussed in this letter, preferably in a form I can share with those constituents who have raised the subject of the train carriage wash with me.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Zeichner
Member of Parliament for Cambridge

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Member of Parliament for Cambridge

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Cc:

Quash the Train Wash campaign
Cllr Dave Baigent – Cambridge City Council Romsey Ward

Enclosures:

Letter from Daniel Zeichner MP to Patrick Verwer, Chief Executive, Govia Thameslink Railway dated 26 March 2020

Response to Daniel Zeichner MP from Steve Lammin, Engineering Director, Govia Thameslink Railway

Independent legal opinion obtained by the Quash the Trainwash campaign