

GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR LONDON

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Your ref: RG7 (DXB) 20\20523590.2\505386.07000

Our ref: LRH11/N5660/0

7 January 2006

Dear Mr Griffiths

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK (SILWOOD ESTATE, ROTHERHITHE – PHASE 4A) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2005

Further to your letter of 27 October 2005 and subsequent correspondence seeking confirmation of the above order a notice was served by the First Secretary of State on 24 November 2005 under section 14A of of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 stating that the power to confirm the above order could be exercised by the London Borough of Southwark.

That notice was subsequently revoked following the receipt of a late objection from G L Hearn on behalf of Mr and Mrs Rivett of 100 Eugenia Road, Silwood Estate, Southwark, London SE16 2RA.

As you are aware, that objection has now formally been withdrawn. This letter therefore accompanies a further notice under section 14A of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) empowering the London Borough of Southwark to confirm the above order.

The notice is served by the First Secretary of State on the basis that all the notice requirements of sections 11 and 12 of the 1981 Act in relation to the order have been met, that the order is unopposed – the single objection having been formally withdrawn - and that it is capable of confirmation without modification and as a single order (i.e. not in stages).

The Council now needs to decide whether or not to confirm the order. The Council neither has the authority to modify the order on confirmation, nor to confirm it in stages.

If the Council becomes aware of a defect in the order which could be corrected by a modification on confirmation, the order should be referred back to this Office with details so that such a modification can be considered by First Secretary of State if he decides to confirm the order.

As the notice explains, if the Council decide to confirm it, the sealed order (returned herewith) needs to be endorsed as such. A possible wording is given in the notice. The endorsement needs to

be authenticated and dated by a person properly authorised by the Council to do so. The map does not need to be endorsed.

If the order is confirmed, no formal decision letter is required, as the case for its making will already have been explained in the Statement of Reasons and other documentation which accompanied the order when it was submitted for confirmation. Notices of confirmation will, however, need to be served, advertised and affixed on the order land in accordance with section 15 of the 1981 Act. Form 11 in the Schedule to the Compulsory Purchase of Land (Prescribed Forms) (Ministers) Regulations 2004 prescribes the format for such a notice.

This office should be notified of the decision on the order as soon as reasonably practicable and, if it is confirmed, a copy of the endorsed order should also be sent to us for formal archiving.

The First Secretary of State recognises the importance of minimising uncertainty in relation to interests in land included in compulsory purchase orders, and it is therefore his policy that all orders should be determined as quickly as practicable. If, therefore, this Office has not received notification of a decision on the order within 6 weeks of the date of the section 14A notice, consideration will be given to whether that notice should be revoked.

The London Borough of Southwark should be aware that it is possible for other circumstances to arise which would necessitate the exercise of the power to revoke the section 14A notice before the order to which it relates is decided. An example might be where someone who is not named in the order schedule alleges he is a qualifying person for its purposes, and that he has been denied the opportunity to object because notices were not served on him. Such an allegation would need to be investigated, and it would therefore not be appropriate for the order to be confirmed by the acquiring authority whilst it was outstanding.

From the date on which the confirmation of the order is first published, the provisions of section 23 of the 1981 Act enabling an aggrieved person to challenge it in the High Court will apply.

Yours sincerely

IAN McNALLY

Central Casework Co-ordination

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Planning Division