

A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC)

Supplementary Information to the Environmental Statement Addendum: Notice of Publication

The consultation period on the Environmental Statement (ES 2016) for the A5WTC scheme closed on 2nd June 2016. The Department updated the ES 2016 with an Environmental Statement Addendum (ESA 2019) and accompanying Non-Technical Summary (NTS Rev'B), both of these documents published during the period 26th March 2019 to 17th May 2019. It has been brought to the attention of the Department that the base data used for the new traffic model referred to within the ESA 2019 had not been made available as part of the latter consultation process.

The Department for Infrastructure hereby gives notice, in accordance with Article 67A(3) and (9) of the Roads NI Order 1993, that it is now making available the base data used for the new traffic model referred to within the ESA 2019, and NTS Rev'B on the effects of the proposed construction and operation of the A5 Western Transport Corridor dual carriageway scheme.

The general effect of the project will be to construct 85 kilometres of new trunk road from just south of Londonderry at New Buildings, passing through Strabane and close to Newtown Stewart, Omagh, Ballygawley and Aughnacloy.

The base data used for the new traffic model may be inspected by any person, free of charge, at all reasonable hours during the period from 20th November 2019 to 10th January 2020 at the Department for Infrastructure offices of:

- Western Division, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, the offices of:
- Headquarters, Room 2-01, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast,
- Mid Ulster District Council, Circular Road, Dungannon,
- Derry City & Strabane District Council, 47 Derry Road, Strabane,
- Derry City & Strabane District Council, 98 Strand Road, Londonderry,
- Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, The Grange, Mountjoy Road, Omagh, and at
- Strabane Library, 1 Railway Street, Strabane, BT82 8EF.

In addition, the base data used for the new traffic model may also be inspected during the same period at the offices of Monaghan County Council, Roads Office, MTEK II Office, Armagh Road, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan and Donegal County Council, Public Services Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal.

For convenience the original ESA 2019 and NTS Rev'B and ES 2016 will also be available at these locations as reference documents. Alternatively, an electronic version of the ESA 2019, NTS Rev'B and ES 2016 are available for viewing at <http://www.a5wtc.com>.

Any person who wishes to express an opinion on the environmental effects of the A5WTC Scheme in light of the base data used for the new traffic model referred to in the ESA 2019 and NTS Rev'B, must, on or before 10th January 2020, write to the Divisional Roads Manager, Department for Infrastructure, Western Division, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, BT79 7AF, or email DFIRoads.Western@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk.

In the event that a person who has previously expressed an opinion on the ESA 2019 and who proposes to participate in the forthcoming public inquiry to be conducted by the Planning Appeals Commission ("PAC") may also incorporate any opinions arising from the base data used for the new traffic model hereby published within its submissions to the PAC, in accordance with such directions as it may provide.

Information you provide in your response, including personal information, could be published or disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

For information regarding the Departmental Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR please go to the following link <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/gdpr-privacy-notices-dfi-business-areas> or phone the Data Protection Office on 028 90540540.

For further details on confidentiality and FOIA/EIR please refer to <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Habitats Regulations Assessments: A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC)

The EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) establishes the requirement for an assessment of potential impacts upon Natura 2000 sites in Article 6(3) and 6(4). The Habitats Directive was implemented in Northern Ireland by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).

In exercising its functions under this legislation, public consultation exercises have been carried out during 2014, 2017 and the period 26th March 2019 to 17th May 2019. During the latter consultation period (which coincided with the consultation period on the A5WTC Environmental Statement Addendum 2019) it has been brought to the attention of the Department that the base traffic data used for the new traffic model referred to in the Environmental Statement Addendum 2019, and by consequence, the predicted traffic volumes referred to in the Reports of Information to Inform an Appropriate Assessment, has not been made available.

The Department hereby gives notice that it is now making this base traffic data available and, as a result hereby seeks the opinion of the general public, in light of this base data, on the four reports prepared to inform an appropriate assessment on the following Natura 2000 sites:-

A5 WTC Report of Information to Inform an Appropriate Assessment SAC Watercourses covering:

- River Foyle & Tributaries Special Area of Conservation
- Owenkillew River Special Area of Conservation
- River Finn Special Area of Conservation

A5 WTC Report of Information to Inform an Appropriate Assessment Tully Bog SAC covering:

- Tully Bog Special Area of Conservation

A5 WTC Report of Information to Inform an Appropriate Assessment SPAs covering:

- Lough Foyle Special Protection Area
- Lough Swilly Special Protection Area
- Lough Neagh & Lough Beg Special Protection Area

A5 WTC Report of Information to Inform an Appropriate Assessment Ramsar Sites covering:

- Lough Foyle Ramsar Site
- Lough Neagh & Lough Beg Ramsar Site

The base traffic data may be inspected by any person, free of charge, at all reasonable hours during the period from 20th November 2019 to 10th January 2020 at the Department for Infrastructure offices:

- Western Division, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, the offices of:
- Headquarters, Room 2-01, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast,
- Mid Ulster District Council, Circular Road, Dungannon,
- Derry City & Strabane District Council, 47 Derry Road, Strabane,
- Derry City & Strabane District Council, 98 Strand Road, Londonderry,
- Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, The Grange, Mountjoy Road, Omagh, and at
- Strabane Library, 1 Railway Street, Strabane, BT82 8EF.

In addition, the base traffic data may be inspected during the same period at the offices of Monaghan County Council, Roads Office, MTEK II Office, Armagh Road, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan and Donegal County Council, Public Services Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal.

For convenience the four reports of information to inform an appropriate assessment, the Environmental Statement 2016, Environmental Statement Addendum 2019 and the Non-Technical Summary Rev' B will also be available at these locations as reference documents. Alternatively, an electronic version of the base data and all the above documents may be viewed at <http://www.a5wtc.com>.

Any person who wishes to express an opinion on any of the reports in light of the base traffic data published, must, on or before 10th January 2020, write to the Divisional Roads Manager, Department for Infrastructure, Western Division, County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh, BT79 7AF, or email DFIRoads.Western@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

In the event that a person who has previously expressed an opinion on any of the four reports and who proposes to participate in the forthcoming public inquiry to be conducted by the Planning Appeals Commission ("PAC") may also incorporate any opinions arising from the base traffic data hereby published within its submissions to the PAC, in accordance with such directions as it may provide.

Information you provide in your response, including personal information, could be published or disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

For information regarding the Departmental Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR please go to the following link <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/gdpr-privacy-notices-dfi-business-areas> or phone the Data Protection Office on 028 90540540.

For further details on confidentiality and FOIA/EIR please refer to <http://www.ico.org.uk>

The Department will take into consideration any opinions expressed together with the outcomes from the public inquiry process before an Appropriate Assessment is made prior to the making of any Orders for the A5WTC scheme.