



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Planning Inspectorate Case Team
Hinckley SRFI

31 August 2023

By Email: HinckleySRFI@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Planning Inspectorate Case Team for Hinckley SRFI,

Re: Hinckley SRFI Preliminary Meeting

Thank you for sending out an invitation for the Hinckley SRFI Preliminary Meeting. I am grateful to you for keeping me updated on the ongoing process of application.

I regret that, due to the event being held on Tuesday 12th September 2023, I am not able to attend either in person or online. Members of Parliament are required to be in Westminster during the week when parliament is in session, Fridays are the only days which we have available for constituency meetings unfortunately.

I am unable to join online due to a Bill Committee which I must attend. For clarification, when selected for these, attendance is compulsory as it relates to the scrutiny of legislation before it is written into law. A member of my team will attend the Preliminary hearing in my place.

Moreover, I wanted to raise in advance the concerns I and constituents have about the venue which has been selected for the Preliminary Meeting. I was very disappointed to learn that the Planning Inspectorate have decided to hold the meeting at Leicester Tigers Conference and Events Venue. Might I ask why this was chosen? There are many suitable venues in both Mr Costa's and my constituency which would have made it easier for local people to attend the meeting. I would be grateful for an explanation I can share with residents.

For future hearings, I ask that a more local venue be considered. There are other more suitable locations to hold hearings which would be easier for local people to travel to, such as Leonardo's Hotel and Conference Venue on the A5. This is but one example and I know there are others both within my own constituency and the South Leicestershire constituency, where the Hinckley NRFI is proposed to be located.

Many of both mine and Mr Costa's constituents would like to attend the Preliminary Meeting in person, but this is made more difficult by the choice of a venue in Leicester. I know from experience that it is not always easy to contribute effectively to this type of event when joining online. Furthermore, there are older residents who will be affected by the proposed SRFI to whom online participation is a barrier. I would be grateful if a more local venue could be found for future meetings.

I would also appreciate it if at least one of the hearings could be held on a Friday so that the local Members of Parliament have the opportunity to represent their constituents in person.

Yours sincerely

Dr Luke Evans
Member of Parliament for Bosworth