



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Nicola Hopkins
Director of Economic Development and
Planning
Ribble Valley Borough Council

Sent by email only:
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Please ask for: William Cole
Email: will.cole@levellingup.gov.uk
Your ref: 3/2021/0661 and 3/2021/0660
Our ref: PCU/RTI/T2350/3318361

Date: 19th July 2023

Dear Ms Hopkins

Applications by United Utilities Water Limited for proposed works for and use of replacement section of aqueduct, including earthworks and ancillary infrastructure including at proposed Bowland and Marl Hill Sections of the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP), Ribble Valley, Lancashire (application no: 3/2021/0661 and 3/2021/0660)

I refer to the above application which has been the subject of third-party requests to call in for determination by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

The Secretary of State has carefully considered this case against call-in policy, as set out in the Written Ministerial Statement by Nick Boles on 26 October 2012. The policy makes it clear that the power to call in a case will only be used very selectively.

The Government is committed to give more power to councils and communities to make their own decisions on planning issues and believes planning decisions should be made at the local level wherever possible.

In deciding whether to call in this application, the Secretary of State has considered his policy on calling in planning applications. This policy gives examples of the types of issues which may lead him to conclude, in his opinion that the application should be called in. **The Secretary of State has decided not to call in this application.** He is content that it should be determined by the local planning authority.

In considering whether to exercise the discretion to call in this application, the Secretary of State has not considered the matter of whether this application is EIA Development for the purposes of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental

Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The local planning authority responsible for determining this application remains the relevant authority responsible for considering whether these Regulations apply to this proposed development and, if so, for ensuring that the requirements of the Regulations are complied with.

The Article 31 Direction issued pursuant to the Secretary of State's letter of 15 March 2023 is hereby withdrawn.

Yours sincerely

William Cole

**William Cole – Case Officer
Planning Casework Unit
Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities**

This decision was made by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety, on behalf of the Secretary of State, and signed on his behalf