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Food & Rural Affairs

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Nevil Muncaster
Thames Water Utilities
Clearwater Court,
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Dear Mr Muncaster,

TEDDINGTON DIRECT RIVER ABSTRACTION PROJECT: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 35 OF PLANNING ACT 2008

Thank you for your letter dated 02 November 2023 requesting the Secretary of State exercises powers under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to direct that the above mentioned project is to be treated as development for which development consent is required under the Planning Act 2008.

I am writing under section 35A(3) of the 2008 Act to seek more information from Thames Water for the purpose of enabling the Secretary of State to decide whether to give the direction requested, and if so, the terms in which it should be given.

The information being requested relates to:

1. Dry year annual average deployable output figures.

Paragraph 6.14 details that the dry year annual average deployable output for the scheme is 67MI/day based on three individual daily deployable outputs of 75MI/day.

You have stated in paragraph 6.16 that the physical scale of infrastructure required for a scheme capable of providing daily deployable outputs of 75MI/day is the same as the infrastructure required to provide 80MI/day which would reach the thresholds detailed in the Planning Act 2008.

Please can you explain how you have reached this conclusion and how the dry year annual average deployable output has been determined? Including any standard, non-drought scenario output figures (e.g the maintenance flow) that may have been used.

2. Estimated economic impacts of water restrictions.

Paragraphs 6.31 – 6.36 reference figures on the estimated economic impacts of the imposition of water restrictions.

Please can you set out clearly where the information has been derived from and clarify how the proposed scheme would mitigate this impact?

In accordance with section 35A(4) of the 2008 Act, if this information is provided within 14 days of the date of Thames Water receiving this information request, the Secretary of State will provide a response to your original request before the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the day they receive the requested information.

Yours sincerely

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**Innovation and Infrastructure
Water Sector Delivery**