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The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
Secretary of State for
Communities and local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

1st October 2012

**APPLICATION BY HELIOSLOUGH LTD FOR LAND
IN AND AROUND THE FORMER RADLETT
AERODROME**

We are replying to the letter from Ms Christine Symes of 19th September relating to the above. In our previous letters of 16th November 2011 and 10th October 2011, we suggested that the best way forward would indeed be to re-open the previous Public Inquiry. In principle we therefore welcome this proposal to hold a new Inquiry, with the following reservations and comments:-

1 At the previous inquiries, and in subsequent correspondence we specifically raised the impact on traffic congestion along the A414 and A405 resulting from the widening of the M1 and M25 motorways, arguing that this had created a material difference from the traffic figures used by the Inspector.

We also highlighted the new published support for an alternative Midland Mainline freight terminal site at Sundon declared by the relevant Bedfordshire local authorities and

communities. In a world of localism, Sundon is supported by the local community, Radlett is not. This clearly feeds into the new National Planning Policy Framework, and it is vital that all of these issues are fully reopened to examination in order to provide a proper comparison.

2 The prospect of a complete third Inquiry covering all bases and specifically balancing off Radlett versus Colnbrook is a daunting one for our local community, because of the prospective cost. Most of the background work will need to be completely redone to bring the evidence up to date and provide a proper comparison with Colnbrook

We all agree that there needs to be a final settled way forward for locating strategic railfreight terminals in this quadrant of North-West London, and the Public Inquiry process is the best route to tease out all the issues. But it seems that a small local community is having to bear the cost of what is a regional and indeed national planning decision.

We therefore request that public money be allocated to St Albans District Council, and Parish and community groups so that they can mount a proper case.

We look forward to your response.

SANDY WALKINGTON

DAVID PARRY