

## COMMONS AND RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

5 October 2021

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS WHICH ARE WITHIN THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

<b>Questioner's Name:</b> <b>Helen Smith</b>	<b>Respondent's Name:</b> <b>Liz Kirkham, Highways Operations Manager</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
<p>1. Why are comments and objections confidential?</p> <p>It seems very bizarre that comments from statutory consultees are confidential.</p> <p>2. Would it not be more sensible to align this with planning where all comments are published?</p>	<p>1. Comments and objections made in respect of the determination of a formal DMMO application <u>do</u> form part of the public record associated with that application.</p> <p>If any comments or objections are received which are marked as “confidential”, the respondent will be contacted and advised that any such confidential comments cannot be considered as part of the formal process, and in order for their comments to be considered, they would need to retract the ‘confidential’ status.</p> <p>There may be legal reasons why certain information may legitimately be redacted (for example, under GDPR requirements). However, the weighting applied to the comment may be less as a result.</p> <p>2. See above.</p>	