



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
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Dear Resident, Owner or Occupier,

Department for Transport – Changes to site design and operation of the Sevington Inland Border Facility

We are writing to provide you with an update on the development and use of the Sevington Inland Border Facility at Ashford. The site has been in use by the Department for Transport (DfT) as an inland border facility since 4 January 2021, following the end of the EU Exit transition period.

The Sevington Inland Border Facility gained Relevant Approval in December 2020 for use for a period of up to five years from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government ('the Secretary of State') under Article 4 of The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020 ('the 2020 SDO').

As communicated last year, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will be initiating operations at the Sevington Inland Border Facility from July 2021, which we previously referred to as 'Day 200' operations.

Since the previous round of engagement, Defra's operational requirements have changed. As a result, a submission under Article 4 of the 2020 SDO is required for the revised development to increase the footprint of the Defra buildings and provide supplementary containers to enable sanitary & phytosanitary (SPS) checks to be undertaken on food, live animals and plant consignments inbound to the UK. As previously planned, Defra will occupy an area at the centre of the site and will share responsibility for the site with HMRC from July 2021. The need for the Covid-19 testing facility which is currently on site will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

The technical information submitted for 2020 submission will be supplemented by additional assessment for the purposes of the new submission where required to consider the minor design changes to the inland border facility. It is important to note that no significant effects are expected as a result of the proposed changes. DfT is conducting a period of local engagement about the proposed changes to the Sevington Inland Border Facility which will run until Sunday 14 March 2021. Feedback received during the community engagement period will help inform the proposed changes and we would therefore welcome your views.

In the following days you will receive further information on the proposed changes. Additionally, the proposed changes can also be viewed on the site website at www.inlandborderfacilities.uk from Monday 22 February feedback can be provided until Sunday 14 March 2021.

Updates regarding activities at the Sevington Inland Border Facility will continue to be posted on the website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Maclean', followed by a period.

RACHEL MACLEAN

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT