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Mr. Hill

The Secretary of State
for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Schools Assets Team,
Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road,
Darlington. Co Durham.
DL3 9BG.

First Class Post

1st July 2008

My Ref. JBH/00069C
Your Ref. Marie Hepperle

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: The Metropolitan Borough of Stockport (Harcourt Street, North Reddish) (Primary School and Children's Centre Development Scheme) Compulsory Purchase Order 2008

I refer to the aforementioned Order that was sent to you under cover of my letter of the 4th June last for confirmation and enclose herewith six letters of representation that have been received directly by the Council in respect thereof. Two of the letters are from the same persons.

The authors of the letters have been informed that their representations have been sent to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

We would invite the Secretary of State to treat the substance of the letters as being insufficient to warrant a local Public Inquiry being held as the Council is of the view that the persons making the representations do not have an interest in the land contained within the Order that would in law compel the Secretary of State to hold a local Public Inquiry to consider any objections there may be made to the Order.

The basis for this assertion is set out below –

As background information the Council is seeking to establish a new Primary School on land off Harcourt Street, North Reddish, Stockport and having already obtained planning permission for the new School to be built on land known as the Harcourt Street Recreation Ground is seeking authority to use compulsory purchase powers to acquire three parcels of land (the "CPO Land") that are needed to facilitate the provision of (a) an access to the School off Mill Lane and (b) to allow utility services to be laid through land off Harcourt Street to serve the new School.

The Council owns the Recreation Ground other than the CPO Land but has been unable to trace anybody who has the capacity to dispose of the CPO Land to the Council and hence the need for the Order to be made pursuant to S.530: Education Act 1996 seeking authority to rely on the use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire the CPO Land.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I ought to mention one other matter at this stage. Whilst public Notice of the making of the Order was properly served and posted on and around the CPO Land and appeared for the first time in the local press on the 4th June 2008 it failed to appear on the following Wednesday. We cannot find an explanation for this except to assume that an error occurred between the Newspaper and our publishing agents although the public Notice was again inserted in the editions of the local press on the 18th and 25th June 2008 and so in essence appeared three times. In addition the Council allowed a full calendar month for objections rather than the statutory 21 days.

Yours sincerely,

for Council Solicitor.