

Department for  
**Transport**

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19 February 2003

C Dear Mr Maidment

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING & TECH SERVICES			
21 FEB 2003			
IN	CIRC.	SEEN	FILE

**EXETER AIRPORT PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE**

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1. Thank you for your letter of 22 October seeking comments on proposals submitted by Devon County Council for development including a new road which would pass close to the end of the Runway 08 at Exeter Airport. I am sorry that it has taken some time to reply.
  2. In terms of the guidance on new infrastructure within Public Safety Zones in paragraph 19 of DfT Circular 1/2002, the proposed road seem essentially to be a local, rather than a major, road. As such, its construction may be considered as permissible within a Public Safety Zone. Nevertheless, it appears that the road may have fairly heavy flow of traffic, particularly at certain times of day, and should your authority be minded to approve it you would no doubt wish to consider measures to ensure that traffic does not build up within the Zone. In particular, you may wish to consider measures to prevent traffic tailing back from the roundabout at the southern end of the link road, the interchange with the new A30.
  3. I note also that in passing so close to the end of the runway, the link road would pass through the smaller area within the Public Safety Zone where the annual level of individual risk exceeds 1 in 10,000. The Circular states that only development which involves a very low density of people is acceptable in such areas, although it does not explicitly address proposals for transport infrastructure. The clear implication, however, is that only the quietest of minor roads should be authorised within these high risk areas, and given its forecast traffic flow, the link road does not appear desirable. But I note from your letter that it may be placed in tunnel to allow for the possibility of aircraft overruns. Should such a tunnel extend for the full extent of the section of road within the 1 in 10,000 risk contour, your authority may feel that the public safety concerns for this section of the road have been adequately addressed.
  4. I hope that this advice proves helpful. I should stress that it deals solely with the issue of public safety and not matters relating to the safe operation of aircraft using Exeter Airport. Such aerodrome safeguarding issues may be raised by the airport itself.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Cotterell

