

Jennifer Atkinson
Planning - Case Officer
Strategic Development Directorate
Manchester City Council
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Owain Roberts
Stakeholder Manager
Northern Trains Limited
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24 August 2020

Dear Jennifer,

Re: Planning application 126431/FO/2020

I write in connection to the above application for a second arena on the Etihad Campus in Manchester. Northern plays a vital role in the north of England by connecting tens of thousands of people to work, leisure, education and more.

Northern supports the proposed second arena for the following reasons:

- A second arena in Manchester will give a significant boost to the visitor economy with the latest report suggesting that both arenas would lead to more than 2 million arena visitors by 2035 within a 90-minute catchment. This would likely benefit Northern services and support our efforts to attract further investment in rail infrastructure in the North.
- The proposed arena seeks to be amongst the most sustainable in the world, actively promoting sustainable transport at the point of booking tickets. The arena is a 20 - 25-minute walk (or 7-minute tram ride) from one of the North's busiest stations, Manchester Piccadilly, which is served by Northern.

There is evidence of increased train usage when Manchester City play at the Etihad Stadium so it is likely this will be the case with the proposed arena. Therefore, Northern supports the proposal for a second arena in Manchester.

Yours Sincerely



Owain Roberts
Stakeholder Manager

northernrailway.co.uk

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