



Farmers and landowners with land close to major road infrastructures could soon benefit from recently announced changes in policy for the development of truck stops.

A Government consultation identified strong support for the development of secure truck stops from a number of organizations including the Transport Police, the Highways Agency, insurers and the haulage industry as current demand for lorry parking far outstrips supply. This could provide farmers with a diversification opportunity to earn additional income.

Proposals for dedicated truck stop facilities will now be considered in the context of existing and/or proposed facilities on the strategic road network and will be determined on their individual merit. This will include truck stop facilities that can be accessed directly from motorways, as well as dedicated truck stops close to motorway junctions and on major trunk

roads.

Stephen Rice, Partner at Fisher German in Banbury, believes that farmers and land owners who own land next to motorway junctions and major trunk roads are ideally placed to provide these secure parking facilities.

Stephen comments “With the proposed change in policy and directions from Central Government, Local Planning Authorities will have to take a more positive and pragmatic view regarding proposals for secure lorry parking facilities. At present lorries are forced to park overnight in lay-bys and industrial estates, where there is no access to facilities and drivers and their loads are at risk of being targeted by organized criminal gangs.

“The operation of a secure lorry parking facility is extremely straight forward and is something that many farmers and land owners would be able to manage themselves as an ancillary business to their main farming enterprise. Alternatively there are existing truck stop operators who are also looking for new sites for which they would either take a lease or enter into a joint venture arrangement.

“We are currently working on a number of such schemes and have identified areas within the Midlands and South East where there is a significant demand with very few facilities currently provided.”

Stephen and his team can carry out a quick desk top appraisal to determine whether your site satisfies a number of essential criteria. Contact Stephen either by email at Stephen.rice@fishergerman.co.uk providing details of the address and location of the land in question with a copy of a plan if possible, alternatively call him on 01295 271555.