



Department  
for Transport

Laura Blake  
Chair  
Thames Crossing Action Group

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
Richard Holden MP

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: [REDACTED]  
E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Our Ref: [REDACTED]  
Your Ref: [REDACTED]

11 November 2022

Dear *Laura,*

Thank you for your letters of 10 and 25 October to my predecessor and the former Secretary of State, regarding the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC).

I am grateful to you for taking the time to write in with your concerns. As you are aware, the Dartford Crossing is among the most congested sections of the Strategic Road Network, yet also one of the most important for long-distance freight and business trips. I would like to inform you that the LTC aims to provide an improvement in the capacity and resilience of the road network, including at the Dartford Crossing, boosting the South East and the wider national economy. That is why the Government committed funding as part of the Roads Investment Strategy 2.

I recognise the importance of carefully managing the cost and environmental impact of the project. As previously set out, the LTC will be designated an all-purpose trunk road (A-road) and is being designed to GD300 standard. Therefore, the LTC scheme is not affected by the pause to the delivery of new All Lane Running (ALR) motorways.

You will be aware that National Highways intends to re-submit their Development Consent Order later this year, and that your areas of concern, such as the impact of the LTC on the wider road network and the environment will be considered carefully by the Planning Inspectorate. It will also give you the opportunity to have your say on the project as part of this process.

I hope that you find this reply helpful.

Best wishes,

**RICHARD HOLDEN MP**  
**MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT**