



Department for Transport

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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
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Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March, regarding the London Assembly's motion pertaining to Hammersmith Bridge. I am responding to you on this matter as I have ministerial responsibility for the Department's role in supporting the re-opening of Hammersmith Bridge.

I would like to reassure you that I have been made aware of the impact that the ongoing closure of Hammersmith Bridge to motor vehicles has had, both on the levels of congestion in South-West London and on the lives of those living and working in the surrounding areas more generally.

The Department is continuing to work productively with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) and Transport for London to explore possible solutions to the ongoing closure of Hammersmith Bridge to motor vehicles, and HMG has provided the Borough with almost £13m of funding to-date. This includes £4m invested in emergency exploratory works following the full closure of the bridge; £2.93m of funding for the initial stabilisation works in May 2022; £2.5m for geo-technical works in March 2023; and £2.9m for the temporary resurfacing of the Hammersmith Bridge carriageway in March 2024.

The first stabilisation phase of works is now expected to complete in Spring 2025, and will ensure that the bridge can safely remain open to pedestrians, cyclists and river traffic on a permanent basis. These works are also inclusive of the DfT-funded work to temporarily resurface the Hammersmith Bridge carriageway, which will allow cyclists to once again use the Bridge without first dismounting.

I am aware that LBHF submitted an Outline Business Case for the next stage of works on Hammersmith Bridge in May 2023. The Secretary of State for Transport has now commissioned an internal review of DfT's capital spend portfolio to support a long-term strategy for transport as part of the HMT-led Spending Review. This will conclude in Spring 2025 and include decisions on capital programmes such as Hammersmith Bridge. While I appreciate that this process has now taken far longer than initially expected, I can assure you that a final decision will be made in due course.

Finally, I am conscious of the positive impact that the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce, which last met in November 2021, initially had in driving forward the restoration project by bringing together the key local stakeholders to discuss this issue. As such, I have decided to reconvene the Taskforce, which will provide a valuable forum for interested local stakeholders to discuss the progress of the repair works taking place on Hammersmith Bridge. I look forward to chairing this Taskforce, and a date will be announced in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Lightwood', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

SIMON LIGHTWOOD MP

MINISTER FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT