



Department for Transport

Dr Alison Moore AM
Chair of the Transport Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
London
SE1 2AA

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: baroness.vere@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/315115

12 November 2020

Dear Dr Moore,

Thank you for your letter of 20 October to the Secretary of State, regarding funding for the repair and restoration of Hammersmith Bridge. I am responding as the Minister responsible for this issue. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in my reply.

The Government wants to see Hammersmith Bridge opened as soon as it is safe to do so. Residents and commuters are rightly angry at the situation which needs to be resolved as soon as possible, with clear leadership to determine how to proceed. You rightly mention that the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce, chaired by myself, has committed to a temporary ferry crossing being in service by early 2021.

As I am sure you are aware, the Government has now agreed with Transport for London (TfL) a £1.7 billion Extraordinary Funding Agreement. As part of this package, TfL will establish and run the temporary Hammersmith Ferry service using their own active travel fund, along with any other local contributions it can secure, such as those proposed by Richmond Council to support the ferry service.

Discussions between stakeholders on financing any interim measures and long-term bridge stabilisation work, recognising that as owners of the bridge the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham is responsible for its upkeep and maintenance, have been constructive and are ongoing. The Department is waiting for confirmation of local authority contributions from the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

I am determined that any funding committed to by the Government is fair to the UK taxpayer.

*Yours,
Charlotte*

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON