



Department  
for Transport

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From the Secretary of State  
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Dear Navin,

Thank you for your letter of 10 September containing a motion on behalf of the London Assembly about funding the restoration of Hammersmith Bridge.

I share your disappointment and frustration that the Bridge was closed to pedestrians and cyclists on 13 August. The Government wants to make sure that Londoners can move round the capital easily, on public transport, through active travel and on our roads. As part of that, the Government wants to see the Hammersmith Bridge opened as soon as safely possible so that, at a minimum, people can cycle and walk across the Bridge and in time return the Bridge to full use.

Local residents and commuters are rightly angry at the situation – it needs be resolved as soon as possible, with clear leadership to determine how to proceed. To help find a speedy resolution to the situation, the Government has established a group, which Baroness Vere will lead, to determine next steps. To aid that group, the Department has commissioned its own engineering advice on the bridge's state to help rapidly bring forward a solution.

The Department will also continue to work at pace with local groups and stakeholders, and consider all the options available to help deliver an immediate solution – including any temporary measures that can be brought in to help with local traffic.

Yours ever,

**Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**