



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Richard Holden MP
Minister for Roads and Local Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

6 October 2023

Dear Richard,

Re: Hammersmith Bridge and HS2

Hammersmith Bridge has now been closed to motor traffic for 4 and a half years. In that time, the estimated cost of the full repairs has risen from around £100 million to almost £230 million and the timeframe for the works to be completed have been pushed further and further back.

Hammersmith Bridge has become a monument to political gridlock. Its continued closure has made the UK the subject of mockery around the globe and yet your department stubbornly refuses to take up responsibility for its repair.

This week, the Prime Minister abandoned the northern leg of HS2. While I believe this was not the right decision, it frees up tens of billions of pounds in spending for infrastructure projects.

I would urge you, in the strongest possible terms to lobby and argue for the smallest fraction of this money to be spent financing Hammersmith Bridge's repairs.

The Bridge may be the property of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, but the closure has become a matter of national importance. Traffic across southwest and west London has become gridlocked and both communities in the capital and commuters from the home counties have had their lives affected by the continued closure.

I would very much value the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the Bridge and share with you the damage delays to the repairs have been doing to my constituency.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park