



Department
for Transport

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From the Minister of State
The Rt. Hon. John Hayes MP

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Our Ref: MC/109730

Dear Jonathan,

19th July 2014

Thank you for your letter of 27 May to Robert Goodwill, enclosing a petition requesting an upgraded A428 between St Neots and Caxton Gibbet. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

You will be aware that the A428 was included as part of the Highways Agency's Felixstowe to Midlands Route Strategy (formerly the 'Route Based Strategy'). This is one of several strategies covering the strategic road network that will form the basis for future investment priorities in addition to the investment already identified and committed to by the Government.

Stage 1 of the strategies, which identified performance issues on routes, anticipating future challenges and taking the condition of the routes and expected local growth into consideration, has now been completed and the evidence report was published in April. A copy can be seen at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/publications/route-strategies-evidence-reports>

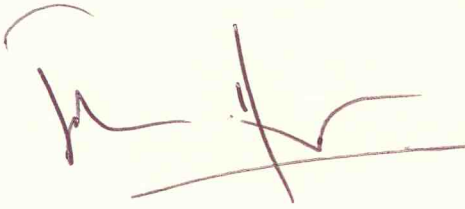
Stage 2 has now commenced and will be published by the Agency in March 2015. This will seek potential solutions to address the priorities highlighted in Stage 1 and to form the basis of an investment strategy.

Stage 1 has identified congestion on the A428 between the A1 and Caxton Gibbet as an issue. Opportunities for improvements and the necessary funding required to deliver them up to 2020-21 will be determined following the Strategy's completion.

** P.S. Jonathan, should you want my officials to respond to any aspect of this do let me know.*

I regret it is therefore too early to anticipate what proposals might come out of the Route Strategy for the A428 but the Agency expects to release some of its findings this autumn. In the meantime, I can assure you that the Agency will continue to work closely with stakeholders to ensure the problems of this route are identified and improvements progressed where funding allows.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John Hayes', written over a horizontal line.

THE RT. HON. JOHN HAYES