



Department
for Transport

Jonathan Djanogly MP
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Stephen Hammond MP

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Our Ref: MC/58544

09 NOV 2012

Dear Jonathan,

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 October about the A14 Huntingdon Railway Viaduct.

As you will be aware, this viaduct has been showing signs of deterioration for more than 10 years and the Highways Agency has been following a strategy of careful monitoring and targeted intervention. This has been carried out to ensure the structure is kept in a safe and serviceable condition until such time as the new Huntingdon Southern Bypass is opened as part of the upgrades to the A14.

The option assessed and found to be the basis of a viable tolled scheme for the A14 assumed the removal of the Huntingdon Viaduct. The scheme is subject to further design work and this may also conclude that removal of the viaduct is optimal for the tolling scheme and in respect of the design of the road network left in place around Huntingdon.

The exact timescale for the completion of the proposed upgrades is not yet known and there is therefore a requirement for the viaduct to remain in service for the foreseeable future. Although the structure is perfectly safe, it continues to deteriorate and this is therefore an appropriate time for the Agency to carry out essential strengthening work on the viaduct. This will enable the Agency to remain confident that the structure can remain in service for as long as is necessary.

The work that will be carried out is the minimum necessary to meet the above requirements and will cost somewhere in the region of £7.5m. Approximately £750,000 is currently spent each year on risk mitigation measures and the monitoring of the viaduct.

I have asked the Agency to write to you again once the programme for the viaduct strengthening works has been developed.

Yours ever


STEPHEN HAMMOND

TAY, Penelope

From: TAY, Penelope on behalf of DJANOGLY, Jonathan
Sent: 24 October 2012 16:23
To: 'stephen.hammond@dft.gsi.gov.uk'
Subject: Letter of 22 October announcing Highways Agency plans to strengthen A14 Huntingdon Rail Viaduct

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your letter of 22 October advising me of the plans to strengthen the A14 Huntingdon Rail Viaduct. As you may or may not appreciate, the Huntingdon Rail Viaduct is a sensitive issue locally, to the extent that it is so closely tied in with the planned full redevelopment of the A14.

In short, if something around £one billion is to be spent on a new road, why are we going to be spending millions upgrading a potentially dangerous and defunct viaduct?

I do appreciate that there is a timing issue here, but I think it is important that more information is provided to me; not least so that the position can be fully explained when I am approached locally and by media.

Accordingly, please could you let me know what the approximate cost of the construction work will be; what the potential lifespan of the viaduct is without work being carried out and whether work is going to be minimised, keeping in mind the full A14 project, which is now to be proceeding?

Finally, could you please confirm that the full A14 project is likely to involve the removal of the viaduct?
Thanks for your help with this.

Yours ever,
Jonathan