



Department
for Transport

Sarah Olney MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Richard Holden MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: richard.holden@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Your Ref: SO16978

8 November 2022

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter of 20 September to the former Secretary of State suggesting a meeting of the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce.

I have taken over Ministerial responsibility for getting this historic bridge reopened permanently to all users and especially to residents of South-West London. A huge step forward was taken earlier this year when the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham submitted its business case for stabilisation to TfL and my Department and we subsequently provided our promised share of the funding.

I understand that the stabilisation works are now well underway and that, alongside these works, LBHF and its technical advisers are working diligently to produce an Outline Business Case for the strengthening works. The question about whether or not to toll the bridge will form a key part of the content of the business case and I look forward to reviewing this once LBHF submit it to my department. It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge anything in advance of the proper approval processes for the business case.

It is clear that the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce has had a positive impact on driving this unique project forward. I am keen for this to continue as we move through the next phase of the project but at the same time I am mindful of the need to have substantive and productive discussions at the Taskforce to ensure they remain a good use of members' time.

With this in mind I am committed to holding another Taskforce when there are substantive agenda items to be discussed, for example, following the submission of the Outline Business Case by LBHF.

Given the stage that the project is at, and my desire to meet with the members and hear the full range of views on the bridge, I expect this will happen sooner rather than later even if I cannot yet commit to an exact date.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Holden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RICHARD HOLDEN MP

MINISTER FOR ROADS AND LOCAL TRANSPORT