

TORBAY COUNCIL

Mr Ed Vokes
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Please reply to: Councillor Steve Darling
Leader of the Council
Torbay Council
Torquay Town Hall, Torquay
TQ1 3DS

My ref: SD/LH

Your ref:

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Date: 16 June 2022

Dear Mr Vokes

RE: Network Rail Delays in Torbay

Thank you for your letter dated April 2022, your reference 396349.

We are writing again on the ongoing issues surrounding the delays to the works on the railway bridge on Torbay Road.

We have been in regular communication with Stuart Calvert, Capital Delivery Director for Network Rail who has greatly assisted in communications and kept us abreast with delays to the railway bridge on Torbay Road which finally reopened on the 23 May 2022 following months of delay. However, the rebuilding of the parapet on the railway bridge has led to overnight occasional closure of the road which is set to last well into July.

We would like to draw to your attention to the fact that this scheme has lasted approximately 3 times longer than the planned period of the works and in these exceptional circumstances the Government should facilitate compensation to local residents on the diversion route and others immediately effected by these works on Torbay Road.

Can we remind you of our 3 asks in our letter dated 25 March 2022 that were not addressed in your previous correspondence?

Our first request is an ask for some mitigation activity in light of the extreme pressures that will be on our highways system and impact on public transport take up. We request that for the additional

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period of closure of this road that rail travel on the section of the line between Paignton, Torquay and Torre is made free to try and shift road users onto rail.

Our second request is that conversations are held with Stagecoach to consider what subsidies could be passported onto bus user for a month post the reopening of the bridge to traffic to encourage local people to use routes such as the 12 and 22 buses that are significantly impacted by this continuing closure.

In addition to this we would like to raise the fact that this scheme has lasted more than double the planned period of the works and in these exceptional circumstances the Government should facilitate compensation to local residents on the diversion route.

Clearly the first ask has now passed but the second and third ask remain outstanding. We would welcome your response on this, in light of the scheme taking 3 times longer than it should have.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Steve Darling
Leader of the Council



Councillor Darren Cowell
Deputy Leader of the Council and
Cabinet Member for Finance