



Transport Committee

Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Secretary of State
Department for Transport

By email

17 November 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Follow-up to oral evidence session

Many thanks to you and your officials for your time in front of the Transport Committee earlier this week. As ever, we did not have time to address all the issues we wanted to raise and so I am writing to ask for responses to some additional questions, alongside the further information you undertook to provide during the session.

Firstly, further to our discussions about HS2:

What assessment has your Department made of the environmental and decarbonisation impact of the decision to cancel future phases of HS2, including in terms of:

- a) How much more freight traffic will in the future be carried by road rather than rail as a result;**
- b) How many more journeys between London and Scotland will in the future be undertaken by air rather than by rail as a result.**

We have noted the publication of the Government's Plan for Drivers policy paper on 2 October 2023. Under the five main actions of the Plan a large number of specific measures are described. These include issuing new or revised guidance and consultation or calling for evidence on a number of topics, as well as allocating funding to traffic management technology and putting new tools at the disposal of local authorities.

What are the timescales for introduction of specific measures contained in the Plan for Drivers?

What milestones relating to measures in the Plan for Drivers will there be over the next six months?

The Plan promises a new National Parking Platform by autumn 2024. Will this be available for drivers across the whole country by that point?

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for [your letter](#) of 9 November about departmental consultations. When we discussed this matter at our previous evidence session in April we pointed out the large number of outstanding consultations, calls for evidence and other commitments we had identified that had not moved forward for some time. We are grateful for your update and for your and your officials' efforts to ensure that responses and outcomes are published promptly where possible, and status updates given otherwise.

We note that a substantial number of items in your list have received 'holding responses', and would be grateful for further updates as substantive responses become available. These items include the Department's consultation on managing pavement parking, which closed in



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November 2020. You will be aware that this was the subject of a September 2019 Transport Committee [report](#).

This is an issue which had been expected to be addressed in a Transport Bill in the 2022-23 Session, and is among those topics which do not feature in the Government's legislative programme for the current Session.

Please could you provide us with a further update about progress towards a policy decision and legislation on pavement parking?

Thank you in advance for your answers and for the additional information you offered to provide during the session on several points. We look forward to meeting your new ministerial team soon when the Committee concludes its oral evidence on the subject of accessible transport.

Kind regards,

Iain Stewart MP
Chair of the Transport Select Committee