



Department
for Transport

The Rt Rev. the Lord Harries of Pentregarth
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House of Lords
London
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Lord Davies of Gower
Minister for Maritime, International and Security

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3 May 2024

Dear Richard,

Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce

During our exchange at the debate on the Lower Thames Crossing on 29 April, I committed to writing in response to your question regarding the Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce.

A government-led Taskforce was first set up by my Department in September 2020 to work towards the safe reopening of Hammersmith Bridge. The Taskforce brought together key stakeholders, including the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF); the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames; Transport for London (TfL); the Greater London Authority and the Port of London Authority.

The Hammersmith Bridge Taskforce met sixteen times between 1 October 2020 and 25 November 2021. After this point, it was agreed not to call a further meeting until there was either an issue that required unblocking between members, or a significant milestone that needed discussion or celebration.

A further meeting of the Taskforce is certainly not out of the question, but the Government is mindful of the need to ensure Taskforce meetings remain a good use of members' time.

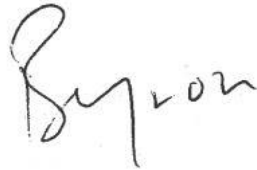
The Government has recently granted the Borough £2.9m for the temporary resurfacing of the carriageway of Hammersmith Bridge. The completion of these works will once again allow cyclists, as well as other forms of pedalled transport, to use the Bridge's central carriageway. This will serve to increase connectivity between Barnes and Hammersmith for users of active travel, as well as alleviate overcrowding on the narrow pedestrian walkways on the Bridge.

This most recent grant brings the total Government contribution towards the cost of restoring Hammersmith Bridge to almost £13m to-date. This includes £4m invested in emergency exploratory works following the full closure of the bridge, £2.93m of funding for the initial stabilisation works in May 2022, and a further £2.5m for geo-technical works in March 2023.

The Government remains committed to the re-opening of the Bridge to all users, subject to cost, and we are continuing to work productively with both LBHF and TfL to this end.

I am copying this letter to all Noble Lords who spoke in the debate and am placing a copy of it in the Library of the House.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Davies', written in a cursive style.

LORD DAVIES OF GOWER

Copy to:

The Lord Colgrain DL
The Lord Stoneham of Droxford
The Rt Hon. the Lord Haslehurst
The Lord Liddle
The Rt Hon. the Lord Naseby
The Viscount Stansgate
The Rt Hon. the Lord McLoughlin CH
The Baroness Watkins of Tavistock
The Rt Hon. the Lord Grocott
The Lord Davies of Brixton
The Baroness Wheatcroft
The Lord Watts