



Department  
for Transport

Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR  
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Wendy Burton  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Web Site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016

Dear Wendy Burton,

**Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M4 Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway**

Thank you for your letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 requesting information from the Department for Transport in respect of the examination of the above application.

I have set out below the two requests and the Department for Transport's response:

**1. A copy of the DfT assessment of the carbon impact of the M4 Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway.**

Department for Transport response:

In accordance with paragraph 5.17 of the National Networks National Policy Statement, the applicant (in this case Highways England) should provide evidence of the carbon impact of the scheme and an assessment against the Government's carbon budgets. The Planning Act 2008 requires that the Secretary of State for Transport should decide whether to grant consent for the scheme following receipt of the report from the Examining Authority.

Once that report has been received, and as part of that decision-making process, the Secretary of State will take a view on whether the carbon emissions resulting from the scheme would have a material impact on carbon reduction targets.

It is at this stage of the process that the Department for Transport will assess the impact of the scheme in question against the Government's carbon reduction targets.

**2. An explanation of the circumstances in which DfT would require the carbon impact to be reassessed.**

Department for Transport response:

As per the response to request 1, the Department for Transport will assess the carbon impact of the scheme once the report has been received from the Examining Authority.

Therefore, there is no reassessment that can be made by the Department for Transport at this time.

If you have any further queries in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Holly Greig**

**Head of Climate Change Strategy  
Department for Transport**