



# Department for Transport

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To: The Applicant

5 February 2025

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

### **Application by National Highways (“the Applicant”) Seeking Development Consent for the Proposed Lower Thames Crossing Scheme (“the Proposed Development”)**

#### **Funding Statement**

Following the announcement made in the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s speech on 29 January 2025 regarding the Proposed Development, the Applicant has submitted a letter (**Annex A**) outlining that it would provide an update on the effect of this announcement on the application for the Proposed Development, including a revised Funding Statement.

The Secretary of State, therefore, requests that **the Applicant** provides the relevant, updated information as outlined in its letter. Following receipt of that information, Interested Parties will be provided with an opportunity to comment.

#### **Deadline for Response by the Applicant**

The deadline for response is **27 February 2025**.

Submissions sent by post may be subject to delay therefore your response on the information requested above should be submitted to the Case Team, if possible, by email to [LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:LowerThamesCrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

If you have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, or difficulty in submitting a response by email, please inform the Case Team.

The Applicant’s response will be published as soon as possible after receipt on the Lower Thames Crossing project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/TR010032>

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision on the Lower Thames Crossing Application, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully,

Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit

Reference number: TR010032  
Document reference: TR010032/APP/11.11

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30 January 2025

Dear Mr Barrowman,

## **A122 Lower Thames Crossing (Reference Number TR010032)**

### **1 Update following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech**

1.1 We are writing following the [speech](#) made by the Chancellor of Exchequer on 29 January 2025. In the [publication](#) accompanying the speech, the Chancellor set out:

*“The government is also assessing options for privately financing the Lower Thames Crossing, which will improve connectivity across vital ports and alleviate congestion as goods to be exported come from across the country to markets overseas”*

1.2 The Applicant considers it would be helpful to provide the Secretary of State with an update on the effect of this announcement on the Lower Thames Crossing DCO application. The Applicant would, if the Secretary of State agrees, propose as part of this update to include a revised Funding Statement. Noting that the government is assessing options, the updated Funding Statement would supplement the existing publicly funded option with privately financed options that the Applicant considers to be viable.

1.3 The Applicant would, subject to the Secretary of State's agreement, propose to provide this information no later than 27 February 2025. We expect and understand the Secretary of State will, in turn, wish to allow a period of time for interested parties to comment on submissions made. We would welcome an opportunity to provide a further response to those submissions prior to the Secretary of State's decision on the DCO application.

1.4 We would welcome your position on this proposal, and the 27 February 2025 deadline proposed. The Applicant will endeavour to comply with any deadlines established by the Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tim Wright

Head of Consents – Lower Thames Crossing