



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Baroness Vere of Norbiton  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Our Ref: SO16978

12 October 2022

**Re: Hammersmith Bridge**

Dear Baroness Vere,

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of October, the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) selected the Foster + Partners and Cowi double-decker solution as its preferred option for the Hammersmith Bridge strengthening works. In the same meeting, they confirmed reports that once repaired, a toll will be put in place to recoup LBHF's investment.

I am glad that work is finally progressing, however, I hope you will see that a meeting of the Hammersmith Bridge Task Force must not be put off further. Since it last met in November 2021, three major events related to the Bridge have taken place. First, emergency cooling measures had to be brought in over the summer to prevent a serious incident. Second, it was confirmed that a toll would be charged to those crossing the repaired bridge. Third and finally, LBHF have decided to raise a platform across the structure while the bridge is deconstructed piece by piece beneath it.

If now is not the time for the task force to meet, when is?

LBHF have done an admirable job progressing work on the bridge, but they do not represent my constituents, much less the entirety of west and south west London and Surrey. Without the task force, the residents of Richmond Park have no say on this vital issue. We have suffered a great deal due to the Bridge's closure, and yet our community's representatives, including both myself and Richmond Council, are unable to scrutinise any developments around its repair.

We need your department to show leadership now, not simply follow behind Hammersmith and Fulham. It is time for the task force to meet and for those living on both sides of the river to have their say in the future of Hammersmith Bridge.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Olney  
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park