HELEN WHATELY MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jim O'Sullivan,
Chief Executive, Highways England
Company Ltd
Bridge House
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4LZ

HW/AD/143040

20 July 2018

Dear Jim,

Re. Solutions to Operation Stack: managing freight traffic in Kent

It is unacceptable for Kent's roads to be paralysed, so I am pleased that Highways England are exploring alternatives to Operation Stack. I wrote to more than 100 of my constituents who had previously contacted me with concerns about Operation Stack to encourage them to respond to the consultation and let me know their views. Below is a summary of their responses.

Any solution to Operation Stack – whether on-road or off-road – must allow the free flow of traffic without delays.

My constituents are adamant that and new lorry parks should be in suitable places where they are most likely to be used by drivers, such as near motorways. The precious Kent countryside must not be concreted over. Any new lorry parks should also be available for overnight parking to help tackle illegal fly-parking. I do not think my constituents will accept lorry parks that are empty most of the time while the lay-bys remain filled with parked lorries.

A majority of the constituents who responded to me expressed a preference for a network of smaller, commercially operated lorry parks. Many pointed out that there is a national shortage of lorry parking and that Kent should not have to bear the brunt of this problem. They would like Highways England to look

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All personal data you share with me will be processed and stored securely in confidence. I may allow access to your data to authorised staff, and share it with third parties where it will help your case. I may contact you from time to time to keep you informed. You can read my full privacy notice at: helenwhately.org.uk/privacy Hard copies are available upon request. Please let me know if you have any questions about these arrangements.

strategically at the entire network to prevent lorries building up in Kent. I understand that uncertainty over a future lorry park is preventing commercial operators coming forward to provide lorry parking. I urge Highways England to work with industry to encourage the development of commercial lorry parking across the country.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours

Helen Whately MP
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