HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Keir Mather MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Reference No. HW68734 21 October 2025

Dear Keir,

Congratulations on your appointment as Maritime Minister.

I am writing to you to call for action on Operation Brock, which is the traffic-holding system used for lorries queueing to cross the Channel. I understand this falls within your remit as it concerns traffic travelling to the Port of Dover.

I have campaigned on this issue for several years. Before Operation Brock, we had "Operation Stack", which closed the M20 completely and caused severe and widespread disruption across Kent. While Operation Brock is an improvement – allowing cars to continue using the motorway alongside queued freight – it still has a serious impact on local communities.

Each time Operation Brock is activated, HGVs divert through small villages in my constituency, shaking houses to their foundations and creating noise, danger, and damage. Traffic grinds to a halt on many roads and lanes are clogged with traffic trying to dodge the queues. Lorries in the lanes cause no end of chaos. The knock-on effects are significant: businesses lose trade, and residents face long delays reaching work, school, and appointments.

Brock was meant to be a contingency for occasional emergencies like strikes or prolonged storms. Instead, it is now being deployed frequently, including most school holidays.

I have three requests on behalf of local residents:

1. Reduce the frequency and duration of Operation Brock deployment
2. Accelerate the introduction of 'Mini Brock', moving the start point from junction 8 itself, where it blocks the route onto the motorway, to between junctions 8 and 9.
3. Progress work on a long-term alternative to Operation Brock, including off-road holding areas and technological solutions for managing freight traffic.

I understand that the forthcoming Entry/Exit System (EES) is one reason cited for delaying Mini Brock's introduction, to allow time to assess its impact on port

mind, I urge the Department to review this position and press ahead with implementation as soon as possible.

I would be grateful for your response to these three requests.

With best wishes



Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament serving Faversham and Mid Kent
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