Lee Waters AS/MS Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd Deputy Minister for Climate Change



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1360 Ein cyf/Our ref LW/02014/23

Jack Sargeant MS Chair - Petitions committee

30 October 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September regarding Petition P-06-1360 Build a simple slip-road between the M48 westbound and M4 eastbound at Rogiet.

There are currently no plans to introduce a slip road at this location, and it is unlikely that a scheme of this nature would meet the criteria for funding under our future road building tests set out in our response to the Roads Review.

I have made it very clear that we will still invest in roads. However, we are raising the bar for where new roads are the right response to transport problems. As the <u>Roads Review</u> points out, a road that was demanded to relieve congestion often ends up leading to extra traffic, which in time brings further demands for extra lanes, wider junctions and more roads. Round and round we go, emitting more and more carbon as we do it and we will not get to Net Zero unless we stop doing the same thing over and over.

Our priorities for the next five years (2022-27) are highlighted in the <u>National Transport</u> Delivery Plan.

The <u>South East Wales Transport Commission</u> (SEWTC) was also established to consider the problems, opportunities, challenges and objectives for tackling congestion in South East Wales. In its Emerging Conclusions report the SEWTC confirmed that 'The single biggest cause of congestion on the M4, by some margin, is the sheer traffic volume at particular times of day.'

The Commission's 58 recommendations to tackle congestion were <u>endorsed</u> by the Welsh Government in January 2021. The recommendations are closely aligned to our transport strategy, <u>Llwybr Newydd</u>. Integrated, low carbon and multi modal transport networks will be the future of Welsh transport.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

The <u>Burns Delivery Unit</u> tasked with delivering the Commission's recommendations produces Annual Reports, setting out their progress against short, medium and long term measures.

As part of this work, Transport for Wales are <u>consulting on their plans for new stations</u> between Cardiff Central and Severn Tunnel Junction, and new train service proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Waters AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd Deputy Minister for Climate Change