## Ken Skates AC/AM Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-782 Ein cyf/Our ref KS/03374/17

David John Rowlands AM Chair - Petitions committee

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

October 2017

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 20 September regarding Petition P-05-782 Build a Chepstow Bypass to Remove the Bottle Neck from the M48 onto the A48.

We are working with Highways England to develop a coherent cross-border approach to planning for the removal of tolls. This will include the likely impact on the traffic model for Chepstow, including the A48, as it is recognised that a high number of HGVs and other vehicles use this route to avoid the tolls.

I can also confirm that we have conducted a consultation exercise and study into Air Quality Assessment in Chepstow. The outcome of the consultation was that there were five potential options, one of which was a bypass. However, the full impact of the tolls being lifted along with new housing developments in the area, are yet to be fully realised.

As part of the Air Quality Assessment findings, we will continue to work with the local council, developers and stakeholders to improve air quality and safety on the A48 in and around Chepstow.

Ken Skates AC/AM

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