



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jesse Norman MP
Minister of State
Department for Transport
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Our Ref: HM/FM/362

12 December 2018

Dear Jesse,

Safety concerns on A21

As discussed at our meeting earlier today in the Division Lobby, I am enclosing a copy of the letter I have sent to Mr Jim O'Sullivan, CEO of Highways England. This letter outlines recent incidents on the A21 and catalogues the extent of the serious issues faced by the community of Hurst Green and other communities such as Whatlington which are located on this major trunk road.

I am sure that you will recall our meeting in March this year at which you kindly listened to the concerns of local stakeholders and constituents with regards to the A21. At this meeting, both Amber Rudd and I pressed for the A21 to be included in RIS2 as we see further dualling and by-passes along its length as the only real solution to make this road fit for purpose and alleviate the dangers for the communities that reside along it.

I should like to highlight the complete frustration that my constituents feel with regards to the repeatedly ineffective response of Highways England to the very real dangers that this road presents to their communities and especially Hurst Green CE Primary school. I believe that the enclosed timeline of issues affecting Hurst Green since 2011, reinforces my view that Highways England is no longer the appropriate body to manage the A21. The long delays in dealing with what should appear to be straightforward issues such as broken signs outside schools are completely unacceptable.

I would welcome your comments on this issue.

Yours ever,