



Department  
for Transport

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
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From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

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Our Ref: MC/415200  
Your Ref: MG15365

29 March 2023

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your email of 4 November, regarding congestion at the M3 Junction 3 (A322) in your constituency. Apologies for the delay in responding.

I am aware of previous communication between yourself, National Highways and the Local Authorities to address the issue of congestion at this junction. I am also aware of the conversations you have had highlighting this to previous Roads Ministers.

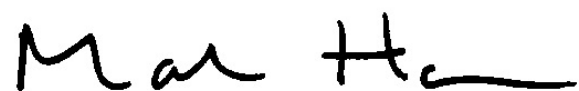
National Highways has confirmed that they are aware of the issues you highlight and, as you note, have been working to investigate and implement short-term operational solutions where possible. It also recognises the junction as a location for further investigation of potentially more substantive, long-term solutions. It will continue to work with Surrey County Council who are responsible for the A322 as a local road.

The route to longer-term solutions is through National Highways' Route Strategy process which will highlight the performance of a particular corridor and potential improvements. This junction will be considered principally within the South West Peninsula Route Strategy. The evidence gathering work for the Route Strategy has concluded, and an interim Strategy will be published shortly as part of a wider set of documents that will frame the next 5-year road investment strategy from 2025.

I encourage you to continue your dialogue with National Highways as the evidence from these strategies becomes clearer on long-term priorities. I am sure Richard Holden MP, my Roads Minister alongside officials from the Department would be happy to meet with you to discuss this issue further too.

Thank you once again for writing to me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Harper". The letters are cursive and connected, with a long horizontal stroke at the end of the name.

**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**