



HOUSE OF COMMONS

10 October 2019

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jim O'Sullivan
Chief Executive, Highways England
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4LZ

Dear Jim,

We are aware that Highways England are currently commissioning a road safety audit on the newly duelled stretch of the A21 between Tonbridge and Pembury.

Each of us have been approached by many residents concerned at safety on the road for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. We have also been approached by families of those who have lost their lives due to accidents here.

A copy of recommendations from the coroner, as follows, has been shared with us following a death last year. You will see that it is clear that improvements are needed here in order to prevent more tragic incidents:

- 1. There is no variable message system or means of warning motorists to slow down during adverse weather conditions. Could consideration be given to the installation of an appropriate variable message system or other signage to warn motorists of the presence of surface water and to reduce speed.*
- 2. From the Police evidence surface water was flowing across the width of the carriageway prior to the collision site. Could the drainage at this point be reviewed/improved to reduce the volume of water running across the carriageway.*
- 3. The driver was seriously injured by the horizontal Arris rail of the acoustic fence. Could the design of the fence be reviewed as the Arris rail is at head height for a seated driver and penetrated into the car upon impact.*
- 4. There is no collision barrier in front of the acoustic fencing, given that there is a foot/cycle path behind the fence, could this be reviewed as in this collision the car travelled across the cycle/footpath. The provision of a collision barrier would mitigate the risk of a vehicle leaving the A21 carriageway and being in collision with users of the pathway.*

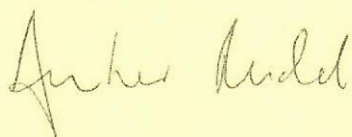
We would be keen for your reassurance that relevant improvements will be implemented following the Road Safety Audit.

Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

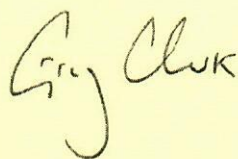
130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1SP

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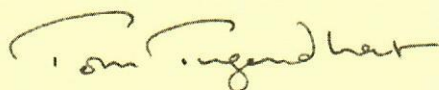
Best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Amber Rudd in cursive script.

THE RT HON AMBER RUDD MP
Member of Parliament for
Hastings and Rye

Handwritten signature of Greg Clark in cursive script.

THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP
Member of Parliament for
Tonbridge Wells

Handwritten signature of Tom Tugendhat in cursive script.

TOM TUGENDHAT MP
Member of Parliament for
Tonbridge and Malling