

Personal

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west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

Rt Hon John Hayes MP
Minister of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
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06 January 2017

Dear

John,

Thank you for your letter, received 28th December 2016, in response to my previous updates on the two-part M6 inquiry, which were held in March and December 2016.

I would ask you to reconsider a meeting to explore the issues that have arisen from the inquiry, which are of enormous importance not just to the West Midlands. Indeed, following a meeting yesterday with Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive of Highways England, it was clearly expressed that these issues are of great significance to traffic flow and economic development on a national scale.

Mr O'Sullivan and I also discussed the risks of a lacuna in governance and leadership that is capable of bringing together all relevant agencies on a regional level, including Highways England, the Central Motorway Police Group, Transport for West Midlands and the seven local authorities of the area. Following the incident on the M6 in February 2016 which led to people being trapped in traffic for up to nine hours, and the road not fully reopening for twenty-four hours, I took on this co-ordinating role to ensure lessons were learnt and improvements made.

I am mindful of comments made by the Prime Minister when she was Home Secretary, challenging Police and Crime Commissioners to be more pro-active in our co-ordinating role with partners. On the topic of the M6 and our wider road network, our work has been in line with the direction given by central government.

Some good ideas are emerging to face the challenges of coming years, and I anticipate that the new Mayor of the West Midlands will be ready to take a key leadership role in co-ordinating partners by the end of the year. Until then, there are issues that require national attention, including gaps in good quality in-car information and the challenges of partners' effectively managing traffic between motorways, key route networks and local roads. Network resilience also remains an ongoing concern that we must all work together to address.

Furthermore, as stressed in my previous letters, HS2 construction has the potential to bring the West Midlands to a standstill if we don't properly co-ordinate our response to incidents. This would have a profound effect on the local economy, but would also be of prolonged national significance. It is in this context that I have given this work the highest priority.

It would be helpful to feed our joint understanding of these issues into the new Mayor's office from May 2017. I had an extremely productive dialogue with your predecessor, Andrew Jones MP, and

hope to continue that dialogue with you as Minister. I am hoping you can find time for a meeting at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



David Jamieson
Police and Crime Commissioner