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for Transport

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Dear Helen,

Operation Stack: Announcement of Proposed Site

I am writing to inform you of the Government's decision that Stanford West near M20 Junction 11 in Kent is the proposed site for a major new lorry area.

The lorry area will prevent the closure of the M20 during disruption to cross-channel services, in almost all foreseeable events, easing congestion and helping companies go about their business and other drivers go about their lives as normally as possible.

The Chancellor announced in his Spending Review and Autumn Statement in November 2015 that the Government would be -

“...providing up to £250 million for a major new permanent lorry park to increase resilience in Kent, by taking pressure off the roads in the event of Operation Stack.’

Following this Highways England consulted on the potential sites for the lorry area and alternative uses and analysed the responses received. In making its decision, the Government listened very carefully to the views of stakeholders.

Highways England will shortly be launching a consultation on more detailed plans for the proposed new lorry area. The project is continuing to be delivered as quickly as it is possible to do given the scale of the works involved to address this issue once and for all. Highways England is planning a phased delivery so that some spaces are available as early as possible, in summer 2017.

Yours,

Andrew

ANDREW JONES

