



Department  
for Transport

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From the Parliamentary  
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Dear Helen,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March to Secretary of State for Transport, about the pinch points fund. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

I can reassure you of Highways England's commitment to making improvements to Brenley Corner, and the Route Sponsor for Kent Corridor, Mr Colin Gardner, is willing to meet with you. He will explain why Brenley Corner was not included in the pinch point programme and discuss our thoughts for the Second Road Investment Strategy. The team executive for Kent Corridor will be in contact with you shortly to arrange a suitable meeting date.

To resolve the subject of Brenley Corner adequately it would have consumed the majority of the £220m pinch point funding being made available for the whole country. Because of this Highways England are pressing for a major scheme to provide an improved grade separated junction in order to deliver a major change at Brenley Corner, through RIS2.

I can also confirm that the following criteria was used to decide which scheme qualified for congestion relief funding. They are:

1. To ease congestion and provide upgrades on important national, regional or local routes.
2. To unlock economic and job creation opportunities; or
3. To enable the delivery of vital new housing developments to meet the needs of a generation of would-be home owners.

I also note that the Kent area is to also get the following improvements in this Road Investment Period:

- M20 junctions 3-5
- A2 Bean – Ebbsfleet
- A21 Tonbridge – Penbury
- M2 junction 5
- M20 junction 10a

I hope this information is useful, I understand the issues you have highlighted and reassure you that, as mentioned above, Highways England are currently evaluating further schemes which we hope will be included in next Road Investment Period.

Yours,  
Andrew

**ANDREW JONES**