



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Reference No. HW52251

10 July 2023

Dear Mark

I'm writing to you in my capacity as MP for Faversham and Mid Kent about the impact Operation Brock is having on residents and businesses across my constituency. Whenever Brock is on we see heavy traffic on local roads, which affects footfall for businesses, lengthens essential journeys and means my constituents spend hours sitting in traffic, sometimes day after day. I am concerned that this is occurring more and more frequently, rather than only in exceptional circumstances.

I recently received an email from the Kent Resilience Forum informing me that the Strategic Traffic Group have approved the implementation of Operation Brock overnight on 13th July, due to their assessment of expected traffic flows across the short straits. This appears to be in preparation for summer holiday traffic. My recollection is that Op Brock is intended for exceptional events like strikes or extreme weather, yet it seems increasingly to be deployed in response to forecast higher traffic volumes. This is not acceptable for my constituents.

I am particularly concerned as we are approaching the busiest time of the year for local tourism and keeping our roads moving is particularly important at this time for Kent's economy. Please can you let me know what plans are in place to reduce reliance on Op Brock and what progress has been made in finding a permanent, alternative solution to it?

Due to my concern about the frequency it is being deployed I would also like to know how many days and nights Operation Brock is operating each quarter including when the M20 is closed to assemble and disassemble it? I was told that the scheduled resurfacing of the M20 was postponed in December due to Op Brock, and my constituents are keen to know when this work will now take place.

I would also like to arrange a meeting with the Roads Minister to discuss this in more detail. Please can you ask officials to contact my office to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely



Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament for Faversham and Mid Kent

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