



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 020 7944 3011
Fax: 020 7944 4399
E-Mail: patrick.mcloughlin@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/129838

Bryn Griffiths
Suffolk County Council

Email: bryn.griffiths@suffolk.gov.uk

17 MAR 2015

Thank you for letter dated 11 February regarding the A12 between Ipswich and Lowestoft.

I appreciate the importance you associate with this route not only for linking the key centres of Ipswich and Lowestoft but also to adequately serve the local economy and planned housing growth for the area. In addition, the impact of the proposed Sizewell C power station will increase pressure on the A12, not least around the 'four villages' stretch that will see considerable increase in HGV movements during the planned construction phase. I acknowledge your concerns over the constraints on this section of the A12 in accommodating these heavy vehicles.

As you rightly point out this stretch of the A12 between Ipswich and Lowestoft is no longer part of the strategic road network (SRN) but is a local road under the responsibility of the local authority, in this case Suffolk County Council. Funding for local transport projects now comes from the Local Growth Fund as part of the Growth Deals and agreed with Local Enterprise Partnerships across England. As part of the Growth Deal process you will want to continue to put forward the case for improvements to this stretch of the A12 to the New Anglia LEP with the aim of making it a priority for the area.

I know the local authorities have been looking at options for a scheme for a number of years, including an incremental approach. A larger bypass scheme would aim to realize the objectives that you state in your letter. With the various interests and varying timescales involved it appears sensible to take a joint working approach between the three government departments and constituent local authorities to look at the interlocking issues. My Department is already working closely with DECC on this and other transport issues

around the proposed site and also officials attend the Suffolk Energy Coast Delivery Board.

I broadly support this proposed initiative and once we begin to see the emergence of key plans and developments my officials would be happy to be part of any joint forum that helps take this forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by 'atrick'.

THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN