



Guy Opperman MP  
Minister for Roads and Local Transport  
Department for Transport

6 December 2023

Via email: [pocorrespondence@dft.gov.uk](mailto:pocorrespondence@dft.gov.uk)

Dear Guy

### **A38 Road Safety**

I write to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Roads and Local Transport in the Department of Transport and look forward to working with you.

I am aware that your department have received urgent calls over recent months for national funding to deliver critical safety measures on the A38 in Cornwall from the Local MP, my Cabinet Portfolio Members and the A38 Action Group. I am compelled to join this call and implore that critical funding is brought forward out of the RIS4 programme to improve the safety of our second strategic route in Cornwall.

For a huge number of our residents and businesses, the A38 acts as both a local access road for basic healthcare, education and jobs and a critical strategic route for connectivity to the wider SW region. Yet the A38 has the highest number of killed and seriously injured of any route in our peninsula. The figures have been sent before and I make no apology repeating them here: the latest 5-year validated collision history (01/01/2018 – 31/12/2022) shows 73 injury collisions (3 fatal, 15 serious and 55 slight), resulting in 3 fatal injuries, 19 serious injuries and 90 slight injuries. These tragic incidents not only have a huge personal and societal toll in the grief that they cause but they also cause hundreds of lost hours in delay and congestion every year.

The Ministerial statement issued in March 2023 and the subsequent confirmation from National Highways relating to the delivery of the £47m 'A38 Safety Package' now being delayed until RIS4 – opposed to RIS3 – have been met with real concern from the Council and communities alike. The A38 safety package of measures is a minimal fundamental priority for Cornwall and the region – it must not be pushed to

the RIS4 programme to compete with major trunk road investment schemes across the UK. The economic impact of preventing the KSIs alone would support a positive case for a £50m investment aside from the wider economic benefits of a more resilient network.

So, I join the growing number of calls to ensure that this priority for Cornwall is taken to the next stage of design and development with a commitment to deliver a safe road for the thousands of our residents, businesses and visitors who rely on it.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment and I hope you can visit Cornwall at some point in 2024.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Linda Taylor  
Leader of Cornwall Council  
[cllr.linda.taylor@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.linda.taylor@cornwall.gov.uk)