



Department for Transport

From the Minister of State
The Rt. Hon. John Hayes CBE MP

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Fiona Bruce MP
House of Commons
London
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26 AUG 2016

Dear Fiona

Thank you for your letter of 28 July to Chris Grayling, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Mr Peter Wild of Woodlea, Oak Tree Lane, Cranage, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 9LU, about noise mitigation for the Smart Motorway scheme on the M6 between junctions 16 and 19. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

During the development of the scheme, Highways England undertook extensive environmental assessment work to determine what impact the upgrade of this busy stretch of the M6 to a smart motorway would have. At the request of my predecessor, Highways England then further reviewed the provision of environmental mitigation in the Cranage area.

This included additional mitigation measures beyond that already proposed to mitigate the scheme and improve noise levels in the noise important areas identified by Defra. It was concluded that appropriate measures had been included.

I believe that my predecessor reviewed all findings with due diligence, and I stand by his decision.

Although I recognise that Mr Wild will be disappointed by this, I am assured that Highways England have followed the regulations and guidance governing this kind of scheme.

Yours sincerely

THE RT. HON. JOHN HAYES CBE MP

Signed by private secretary in the Minister's absence.