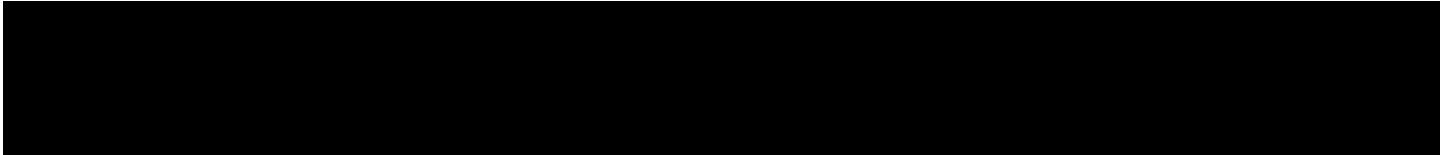


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**From:** CRAFT, Jen (MP)  
**Sent:** 28 January 2025 14:00  
**To:** Lilian Greenwood\_MP  
**Subject:** Jen Craft MP; Correspondence



Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from Jen Craft MP to Minister Lillian Greenwood, concerning the upcoming decision on the Development Consent Order for the Lower Thames Crossing.

Best wishes,



***Senior Parliamentary Researcher***  
***Office of Jen Craft MP***

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Lillian Greenwood MP**  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

January 2025

Dear Lillian,

Thank you for meeting with me before Christmas to discuss the proposed Lower Thames Crossing. As discussed, I am writing to outline in full my concerns about the current proposals for this project, in the hope these might be considered ahead of a final decision on the Development Consent Order.

The construction of the project would cause extensive disruption to the daily lives of people in Thurrock. The noise, dust, fumes and traffic delays produced during construction would impact those living locally, with significant areas of public open space also needing to be occupied by these works. I have heard personal accounts from multiple residents about how this is set to affect them, including individuals being told they will have restricted access to their home during the construction process – and even potentially be forced to put their property up for sale. Once operational, there is also the risk that the crossing would lead to increased congestion on roads across Thurrock. The Council's local impact report highlighted that if incidents were to occur on the crossing, the traffic would spill over into the surrounding area – causing heavy congestion on roads that are not designed to deal with high numbers of heavy goods vehicles.

I also have strong reservations about the efficacy of this project in addressing the issues it has set out to tackle. Analysis of modelling by National Highways suggests that the Lower Thames Crossing would take away as little as four per cent of the traffic from the Dartford Crossing, while congestion at Dartford – even by the best estimate – would return to the levels we see today within five years of completion of the project. Given the impacts on the quality of life of my constituents, I question whether a scheme that seems to offer only short-term mitigation to a longstanding problem is the right course of action.

Instead, I would argue there are alternative options to alleviating congestion at the Dartford Crossing that could be more effective, align better with this Government's net zero ambitions, and minimise the impact on people in Thurrock. Improving other forms of transport, such as enhancing rail links carrying freight and delivering on cross-river public transport solutions, could be a cleaner, longer-term solution with benefits to local communities.

I understand that the planning decision is a quasi-judicial one, and therefore you are not at liberty to comment on the scheme by responding to the points I have outlined above. Nevertheless, I hope my concerns and those of my constituents can be considered in the final deliberations on this project. Whatever decision is made, I will work to ensure it is a success for people in Thurrock.

Thank you again for your engagement on this issue.

Yours,

**Jen Craft MP**