



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
H.M. Treasury
1 Horseguards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Wednesday 5th February 2020

Dear Sajid,

The A14 in Suffolk: Britain's Premier Trade Route and Gateway to the North

Ahead of your budget on 11th March, we recognise that you are keen to invest in every corner of our country and further increase the growth, productivity and strength of our economy now and in the years to come.

As the seven MPs representing Suffolk and the residents and businesses from across our county, we would like to stress the urgent need to upgrade the A14 in Suffolk. This key road is Britain's Premier Trade Route and every week, thousands of freight containers are transported from the UK's busiest port at Felixstowe, which handles some 41% of UK container traffic, to key UK regions including the Midlands Engine and the Northern Powerhouse. In order to rebalance the UK economy towards key constituencies in the midlands and the north, it is absolutely vital that the A14 in Suffolk is upgraded.

At present, the A14 in Suffolk is no longer fit for purpose, the road is heavily congested and accidents occur almost daily, causing significant delays to both businesses and residents. Staff are late getting to and from work, appointments are missed, goods are delayed, and ultimately, people's lives can be changed forever due to the accidents which frequently occur on this heavily congested stretch of road.

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, alongside public partners, have taken a lead on the "A14 No More Delays" campaign, and consequently a report has been commissioned into the A14 which highlights the following:

- an investment of just £150 million, to improve 7 key pinch-points would deliver a £1.5 billion GVA uplift to the UK economy.
- the investment would also help to create around 5,000 jobs during construction, and 36,500 jobs in the longer term.
- upgrading the A14 has the ability to unlock land for up to 35,000 new homes
- investment in the A14 will help to realise the full benefits of the £1 billion investment at Catthorpe, and over £1.5 billion on the Cambridge to Huntingdon scheme.

We agree entirely with this Government's ambition to rebalance the UK economy away from London and the Home Counties, however, as the conduit to the Midlands and the North, the East of England also deserves its fair share of investment and the A14 scheme would significantly improve East-West connections, and provide huge economic benefits for Suffolk, as well as Cambridgeshire and Essex.

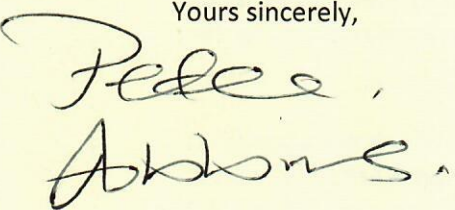
We have attached Suffolk Chamber of Commerce's A14 report for you, including two business case studies which demonstrate the impact the A14 is having on key UK businesses and their turnover. Indeed, one of the case studies from Maritime, the UK's 20th largest transport company demonstrates that A14 delays alone have cost the company a staggering £8.3m per year.

The A14 in Suffolk is already Britain's Premier Trade Route and will be of incomparable strategic significance in enhancing the UK's global connectivity and trade performance in the build up to, and following, the UK's exit from the EU. As Suffolk's 7 MPs, we are asking you to help us to fulfil not only this region's exciting potential, but to help with rebalancing the UK economy.

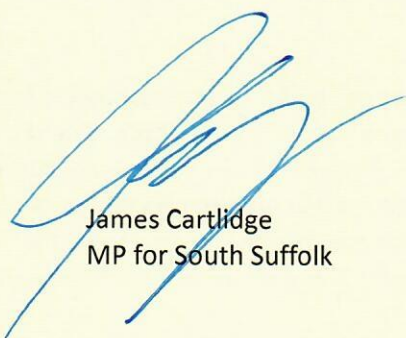
We would be very happy to meet with you to discuss this further and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Aldous
MP for Waveney



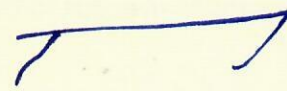
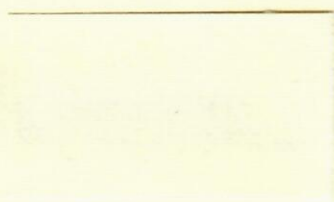
James Cartlidge
MP for South Suffolk



Jo Churchill
MP for Bury St Edmunds



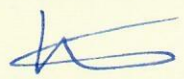
The Rt. Hon. Dr Therese Coffey
MP for Suffolk Coastal



Tom Hunt
MP for Ipswich



The Rt. Hon. Matt Hancock
MP for West Suffolk



Dr Dan Poulter
MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich