

*Addressee as on envelope*

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6 July 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

#### **A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON IMPROVEMENT**

I am directed by the Secretary of State for Transport to refer to the above mentioned scheme.

On 10 June 2010 you were sent a letter referring to the Government's Spending Review and advising you of the postponement of the local inquiry into the draft Orders for this scheme that were published in September 2009.

Following completion of that review, it was announced on 20 October 2010 that the published improvement scheme for the A14 was simply unaffordable for the foreseeable future. I am now writing to inform you that the draft Orders will be withdrawn with immediate effect and the published scheme cancelled.

As a consequence of this decision, the local planning authorities will be told that the statutory protection of the route of the published scheme in the region's Development Plan will also now be removed.

However, it is recognised that congestion remains a serious problem along this transport corridor and we are committed to developing a sustainable solution as also set out in the announcement of 20 October. This can be viewed on the Department of Transport's website at - <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=416118&NewsAreald=2>

Consideration will now be given to reimbursing any legal, other professional fees and any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses which may have been incurred by qualified objectors in connection with preparing their case for presentation at the Inquiry that was scheduled for July 2010. Qualified objectors may be defined as owners, lessees or occupiers of land directly affected by the scheme. Payment will be made by the Highways Agency once sums have been approved as necessary and reasonably incurred. The Highways Agency will not pay costs where an objector has acted unreasonably or incurred unnecessary expense. Claims should be made in writing to the Highways Agency, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7LW, addressed for the attention of Anna Smyth.

Yours faithfully

*Fiona C Wilson*

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On behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport