



1 2 NOV 2009

Department for
Transport

From the Minister of State

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Dear Richard,

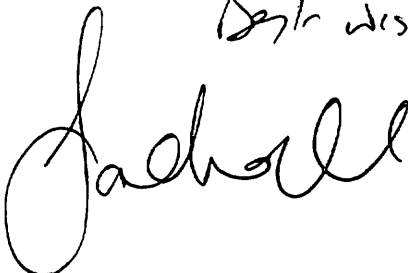
Thank you for your letter of 20 October to Andrew Adonis, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Rev Dr Richard Rodgers, enclosing a petition about construction of the Selly Oak New Road. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

Dr Rodgers has written on previous occasions on this issue and I am enclosing a copy of a letter the Government Office for the West Midlands sent on 10 September in answer to the points he makes in his letter to you. I can only reaffirm that a comprehensive business case for the scheme was submitted by Birmingham City Council and was fully appraised by my Department before approval was given. Both the city council and my Department considered that a single carriageway construction offered the most appropriate solution and I am satisfied that was the correct decision then. I know that the city council see no reason to review the scheme and having read through the issues Dr Rodgers' raises, I agree that there is no new evidence which would cause me to reconsider the decision.

It is pleasing to see from the number of signatories to the petition that local people want the best outcome for Selly Oak but the scheme has already been through a consultation process undertaken by Birmingham City Council in developing the scheme and it was also considered at a public inquiry in 2005.

I fully understand Dr Rodgers' concerns but, as you will be aware, development is well under way with much of the bypass already constructed and I think it important to make clear that there is no question of work being halted at this stage. I am confident that the scheme will achieve its objectives in improving traffic flows along the A38 Bristol Road, helping to facilitate regeneration of Selly Oak centre and providing access to the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Sadiq Khan



SADIQ KHAN