



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Simon Lightwood MP
Minister for Roads and Buses
Department for Transport
33 Horseferry Road
SW1P 4DR

1 July 2026

Dear Simon

Hammersmith Bridge has been closed to buses and blue lights for over 7 years, and Hammersmith and Fulham Council are set to submit a proposal which would effectively accept that the bridge remains closed to all types of vehicles for the foreseeable future.

This recommendation comes following the DfT '*recommended that the Council submits a bid for a phased repair,*' while Hammersmith and Fulham Council has stated that '*the DfT has confirmed its preference for this phased repair bid to the Structures Fund.*'

This decision would come after the bridge has been closed for 7 years – incremental steps via a phased repair is not what is needed.

This recommendation from the DfT to Hammersmith and Fulham Council comes not just as a disappointment, but also a surprise. In April, you made a statement that Hammersmith Bridge is a '*compelling candidate*' for the Structures Fund.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council have cited the Structures Fund's requirements of projects needing to be completed by March 2030 as a significant reason why they have decided to not apply for a more ambitious funding package.

There isn't a single current estimate for repairs to the bridge that would see these repairs completed within the timeframe required by the Structures Fund. Is there any flexibility within the decision criteria to allow for projects that would have a construction period beyond the stated deadline? And, if not, why did you say that you thought the project would be a good candidate for the fund?

Does the government still have an ambition to see blue lights and buses return over Hammersmith Bridge, or has the government decided to abandon this idea, along with the local residents impacted by the bridge's closure?

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park