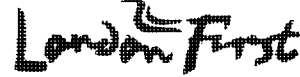
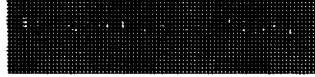
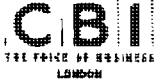


LONDON BUSINESS BOARD

A coalition of the three principal representative organisations for London's businesses



Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP
Secretary of State
Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

Minister	RK
Subject	Thames Gateway Bridge
Official	Mark Plumber

May 2007

Dear Secretary of State,

Thames Gateway Bridge

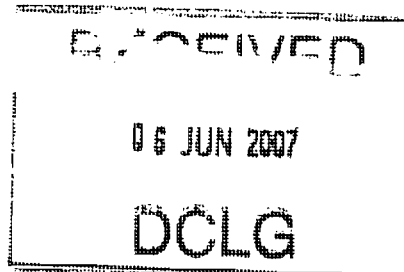
On behalf of the London Business Board, I am writing to seek a swift and positive decision following the public inquiry into the Thames Gateway Bridge.

Construction of the crossing is vital for the success of the Thames Gateway. The provision of new housing and job creation in the Gateway are heavily dependent on good accessibility. Without adequate infrastructure, private investment will be stifled. The construction of the bridge is long overdue. Even if it is approved now, the earliest that it could be completed is 2013 by which time the pressure on housing in London will be even greater than it is now. With funding already in place, approval now will be seen by house builders and commercial developers as a signal to increase investment in the area. Conversely delay at this point would undermine confidence and increase the risk of further challenges on the basis of changing circumstances.

While we recognise that the issues raised are complex, we understand it is now some six months since the Inspector submitted his report following the public inquiry. We look forward to an early announcement.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Barlow
Chairman



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