

London

RECEIVED

12 APR 2007

DCLG

1 Hobhouse Court, Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HH
Tel: 020 7665 1500 Fax: 020 7665 1501 Email: email@london-first.co.uk Website: www.london-first.co.uk

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	ELIZABETH SCALEY

11 April 2007

De Secretary of State

Thames Gateway Bridge – Call by opponents to reopen Public Inquiry

We understand from recent press reports that objectors to the Thames Gateway Bridge (TGB) have asked for the public inquiry to be re-opened to take account of the increase in tolls at the Dartford crossing, proposals for a road user charging scheme in Greenwich and local road widening associated with Crossrail. We believe that none of these factors would justify re-opening the inquiry.

The provision of new housing and job creation in the Thames Gateway are heavily dependent on good accessibility. Without adequate infrastructure, private investment will be stifled. The construction of TGB is long overdue to support regeneration and we are strongly opposed to any further delay for reasons we consider to be spurious. We would like to make several points in response.

Potential for extra traffic due to increased toll levels at Dartford crossing

We believe that the argument promoted by opponents that raising the charges at Dartford by between 20p and £1.10 will contribute to significant extra traffic on a tolled crossing some distance away is unsupported.

The Dartford crossings and the TGB are approximately 10 miles apart. Previous TfL analysis has examined the interaction of traffic flows between TGB and the proposed Silvertown crossing, which is less than 4 miles away, i.e. considerably closer to TGB than the Dartford crossing. Their findings demonstrated that traffic volumes and patterns in this region are not particularly dependent on the presence of an adjacent crossing.

Also, the level of tolls on TGB will be significantly higher than those charged for use of the Dartford crossings. TfL has proposed that the toll for a car to use TGB will be twice as high as those charged for use of the Dartford crossings.

