

Our ref: CCC 18960195

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3 January 2019

Dear Guy

Getting to the Heart of Smart – Road user experiences of smart motorways

Thank you for your letter dated 23 November, as the person responsible for smart motorways programme delivery, Mike Wilson has asked me to respond.

As you state in your letter, Stopped Vehicle Detection (SVD) has been successfully trialled on the two M25 All Lane Running sections and is assisting in the early detection and verification of incidents.

We have since developed a performance specification and are preparing to install SVD on the M3 J2-4a starting in April 2019. This site has been chosen as it's an operational section of ALR and is controlled out of our South East Regional Control Centre (Godstone) which is where the M25 is also monitored from.

We have also updated our smart motorway standard (IAN 161/15) to ensure that there is a requirement on all new ALR schemes and also those that are in their early design phase to include SVD in their specification. With existing schemes in detailed design, construction or operation we intend to retrofit a suitable solution.

In parallel to the implementation of SVD on the M3 J2-4a, we are developing our implementation strategy for further roll out nationally. The study aims are to ensure the most efficient and speedy implementation is carried out whilst being mindful of specific individual regional control technical configurations, operational practices and also staff training and familiarisation. In addition we will be assessing alternative technologies and also a suitable procurement strategy to aid implementation. A detailed roll out programme will follow once these areas have been fully considered.

We will happily provide updates on a quarterly basis of progress if required.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Pidcock
Director, Smart Motorways Programme

CC Mike Wilson