



Department  
for Transport

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RECEIVED 12 NOV 2019

From the office of the Secretary of State for  
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The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

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Our Ref: MC/272316  
Your Ref: AS/2019/069

11 NOV 2019

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 4 November, about all-lane running (ALR) smart motorways.

As you will know, a General Election has been called for Thursday 12 December 2019, and Parliament was dissolved on Wednesday 6 November 2019. In such circumstances there is a custom of ministers observing discretion in initiating any action of a continuing character, or making decisions on matters of policy on which a new Government might reasonably expect to have the opportunity to take a different view. Consequently, the Secretary of State has asked his office to reply to all correspondence during this Pre-Election Period

Highways England's road user safety objective for all lane running is that schemes must demonstrate for a period of three years after becoming fully operational that:

- the average number of fatal weighted injury (FWI) casualties per year is at or below the number in the 'before' period
- the rate of FWI casualties per hundred million vehicle miles per annum is no more than the number than the rate in the 'before' period

The evidence from the review of the first two ALR schemes on the M25 J5-7 and J23-27) published in 2018 indicates that all lane running delivers improved levels of safety when compared to traditional 3 lane motorways. Data from the two schemes over three years shows an improvement in the overall FWI rate of 27%.

The Department will carry out the evidence stocktake to gather the facts about smart motorway safety. Officials will take account of wide ranging evidence before making recommendations to improve drivers' confidence.

Yours sincerely,

  
Andrew Gregory

PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY