

Email received 27 July 2015:

Dear Mr Bartlett

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Sandhurst Lane Residents Association dated 14 July 2015 regarding Operation Stack.

I am very sorry to hear of the difficulties that people in your community are experiencing due to Operation Stack. I agree that the disruption that Operation Stack causes is totally unacceptable and a solution must be found.

All options are being considered by a multi-agency working group to try to find a solution to Operation Stack that allows the M20 to remain open when there is disruption at the Channel Tunnel and Port of Dover. This working group consists of Kent County Council, Kent Police, Highways England, Eurotunnel, the Port of Dover, ferry companies, representatives from lorry park and logistics operators, the Road Haulage Association, the Freight Transport Association, as well as two Kent Members of Parliament.

This group is currently finalising a report to Government which will outline the solutions that need to be delivered. This is likely to require a package of measures in order to accommodate the sheer number of HGVs that use the Channel ports. Options include off-highway lorry parks and extra capacity on-highway to allow HGVs to queue on the motorway while it can also remain open for other traffic, so that vehicles do not need to be diverted onto the county's roads and bring misery to communities like yours.

I remain fully committed to working with our partners to find a solution. It will then be for Government to fund and deliver the solution to a national problem which results in the closure of parts the Strategic Road Network. Last year the Government introduced a HGV Road User Levy, and in its first year raised £44 million from foreign HGVs using the UK's roads. I believe that this money should be used to fund the solutions to this problem that affects Kent so severely due to our location as the Gateway to Europe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Carter', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Paul Carter, CBE
Leader of Kent County Council**