



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA

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Our reference: COR-1182-2020
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Dear Mr Downey,

YORK STREET INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Thank you for your correspondence of 6th February 2020 seeking an update on the York Street Interchange project and clarification on how it fits with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report of October 2018 on the impact of global warming and the need to transition to a carbon neutral society, based on more sustainable transport infrastructure.

By way of update, the Statutory Orders for the York Street Interchange project including the Environmental Statement detailing the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment were published in January 2015. Following a Public Inquiry in November of that year, the Designation Order for the scheme was made in November 2016. The procurement process to award a contract for the detailed design phase of this scheme was halted in early 2017 as result of a legal action. This legal action concluded in September 2019, with the award of contact being set aside. As result of this, options for a new procurement strategy are being considered.

As Infrastructure Minister, I have a clear agenda on climate change. In Northern Ireland, transport is a key contributor, representing 23% of Northern Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions in 2017, second only to agriculture (27%). There is an urgent need to reduce emissions in order to tackle the climate emergency we face and reach the UK net zero target by 2050. As such, over the coming months, I will be considering how best to achieve this transition to carbon neutrality within the areas of my responsibility. I want to ensure that decisions made about progressing major road schemes achieve the right balance between improving connectivity and reducing congestion, and taking the necessary steps to avoid the impacts of global warming above 1.5 degrees as outlined in the 2018 IPCC report.

I hope this provides some reassurance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nichola', written in a cursive style.

NICHOLA MALLON MLA
Minister for Infrastructure