



Department
for Transport

From the Permanent Secretary

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Chair
Exiting the European Union Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Web site: www.dft.gov.uk

26 October 2018

Dear Chair,

Follow up to hearing of 17 October: Contract for portable toilets

I am writing to answer the question you asked me at your Committee's hearing of 17 October.

I can confirm that Highways England do not hold a contract for portable toilets as a contingency measure in case of traffic disruption in Kent resulting from delays to the Channel crossings. Kent County Council have also told my department that they also do not have a specific contract.

Highways England have a number of business-as-usual contracts with a variety of service providers. Their service providers may hold some portable toilets for their workforce to use as a welfare provision during roadworks. Should there be an incident where welfare is required, such as traffic disruption in Kent, Highways England would approach these service providers to see if they could assist on a best-endeavours basis.

Along with other welfare provisions, this is kept under review by the Kent Resilience Forum in case the arrangements need to be altered to meet specific circumstances. In particular, the Forum will be testing and developing plans concerning the welfare requirements of HGV drivers if there are significant and protracted delays to HGV traffic in Kent, as a result of longer checks at the EU border.

I hope that this answers your question in full.

Regards,

Bernadette Kelly CB
Permanent Secretary