Bernadette Kelly CB
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

29 October 2018

Dear Ms. Kelly,

I write following your appearance in front of the Public Accounts Committee on Wednesday 24 October as part of the Committee’s inquiry into the Department for Transport’s implementation of Brexit.

At the beginning of the meeting, I raised a number of topics with you, including TfL’s delayed Crossrail project. In the session, I asked you about the financial implications of the delay to this project, whether the Department or TfL would be shouldering the burden of the cost and whether the Department would bail out TfL. Friday’s Written Ministerial Statement from the Minister of State for Transport announced that the Department would be providing TfL with a £350 million interim payment in order for the project to continue.

In your response to me, you said only that “there is an onus on London to ensure that it bears a fair share of these additional costs” and made the point that London would have to manage the majority of the costs of the delay.

In your comments to the Committee you provided no indication that a deal was about to be done, or that an announcement would be made two days later. I would ask you to provide an explanation as to why this information was not presented to the Committee.

I would also like to make you aware that I have now asked the National Audit Office to undertake work on Crossrail and expect the Public Accounts Committee to look further into this matter.

Yours sincerely,

MEG HILLIER MP
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS