Dear Chris,

Settlement agreement with Eurotunnel

Further to our exchange of letters regarding the contracts your Department secured for additional freight capacity in the event of a no deal Brexit, the Government’s decision to reach a settlement agreement with Eurotunnel, following their legal challenge to these contracts, raises a number of further questions.

While we welcome the Government’s decision to publish details of Eurotunnel’s obligations under the settlement agreement, there remain a number of questions which my Committee believe need to be answered. We would therefore welcome your answers to the following questions:

1. Further to your answers to my letters of 7 and 15 January, on what basis was the DfT planning to defend the legal challenge by Eurotunnel?

2. How was the £33 million figure calculated, and how does it break down?

3. What role will the DfT have in determining the improvements Eurotunnel will be making as a result of this agreement?

4. What improvements will Eurotunnel be allowed to use these monies for on the French side of the Tunnel?

5. How much of the £33 million does the Department expect to be spent on improvements in France?

6. How much of the £33 million will other Departments be contributing?

7. If a deal between the UK and EU is agreed, or the UK does not leave the EU, how much of the £33 will the Government be able to recoup?

Given this agreement relates to the Government’s no deal preparations, we would be grateful for a response by no later than Wednesday 27 March.

Yours sincerely,

Lilian Greenwood MP
Chair of the Transport Select Committee