

RT HON ANDREW MURRISON MD MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

AM/JCP/10/140122 (AM26266)

*(Please ensure that the letter reference is quoted on return correspondence).*

14 January 2022

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
LONDON SW1P 4DR

*Dear Grant,*

I was dismayed by the Highways Agency's letter of 21 December dealing with RIS3 Pipeline. Taken together with the recent adverse High Court decision on the Stonehenge stretch it looks like plans to turn the A303 into a meaningfully strategic route into the south west are fast unravelling.

Consequently, I write to suggest that you review the status of the A303 and recalibrate your expectations of it. There is, of course, an alternative which is to reaffirm the M4/M5 as the strategic route to the south west. What is not acceptable is to shunt more and more traffic, particularly heavy traffic, down a spindly single carriageway whilst pretending it is in any meaningful way strategic.

The 21 December letter does, however, help in one important respect and that is to make it easier to deal with the A303 at the notorious Willoughby Hedge. Here a roundabout to allow westbound heavy traffic to safely access the road from the southbound A350 would have huge consequentials not only for safety but for the reduction of heavy traffic through a series of west Wiltshire settlements. Since the letter makes clear there is no prospect of the A303 being meaningfully strategic for many years, an additional roundabout should now not be a problem.

I invite your comment and thanks you for your help.

*Yours etc,  
Andrew.*

Enclosure

**Serving South West Wiltshire**

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