



Department
for Transport

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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
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Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter of 9 July to the Secretary of State, about the status of the A421 and A1 in Bedfordshire. I am replying as the Minister for the Future of Roads. I appreciate you sharing your concerns about these roads, particularly in light of growth in this region, and would like to reassure you that these issues are being considered.

On recent A421 flooding issues, I am pleased to confirm that National Highways is currently undertaking works to replace the control system for the pumping station at Marston Moretaine, following severe flooding in 2024. The project is progressing as planned, with the programme now moving into its final phase. Ahead of completion, there will be some eastbound closures of the road in late July and early August with clear diversion routes in place. Further closures to then remove the old equipment will be necessary, with dates to be confirmed by National Highways in due course.

On the A1 south of Black Cat Roundabout, DfT has asked National Highways to undertake a scoping study to understand how previous road study development work within the Oxford to Cambridge corridor could be updated to inform future investment in the Strategic Road Network, with a specific focus on the A1 in the Tempsford area. The important A421 corridor will be considered as part of this. Outcomes will then feed into the development of future Road Investment Strategies, taking full account of planned regional growth.

Thank you again for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lilian', with a horizontal line underneath.

**LILIAN GREENWOOD MP
MINISTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ROADS**