



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th November 2020

Dear Mr Banari

Re: Cycle Lanes
My Case Ref. AB6075/TB

Thank you for contacting me about cycling. I am always grateful to learn the opinions of my constituents.

Cycling has a significant role to play in tackling some of the biggest health and environmental challenges that we face.

I am therefore very pleased that the Government has committed to invest an additional £2 billion in cycling over the next five years and that Ministers have published a bold new action plan to boost active travel.

The first stage of this £2 billion investment will be a £250 million emergency active travel fund. The Fund will deliver new pop-up cycle lanes with protected space for cycling, cycle and bus-only corridors, safer junctions and wider pavements.

Furthermore, a £50 Fix Your Bike Voucher scheme was launched, to help people to bring their bikes out of retirement. It was hugely popular and there will be more opportunities to secure vouchers in the coming months.

Investment in recent years has also enhanced cycling and walking infrastructure. Indeed, £210 million through the Cycle Ambition Cities programme has delivered 155 miles of new segregated cycle routes, 186 miles of new on-road and off-road routes for cyclists and pedestrians and 136 miles of off-road cycling signage and resurfacing improvements across eight cities. In addition, £22 million has been invested to upgrade 32 routes, covering 103 miles, along the National Cycle Network.

Beyond these measures, there will be a long-term cycling programme and budget, which will ensure a guaranteed funding pipeline. This will usher in thousands of miles of protected cycle routes in our towns and cities and improve the National Cycle Network.

In addition, cycle training will be made available for any child or adult who wants it and a new national e-bike programme will be introduced to increase access to e-bikes.

Higher standards for cycling infrastructure have also been introduced and a new inspectorate, Active Travel England, will ensure these new standards are upheld. The new standards will ensure schemes are better designed around the needs of cyclists and will make sure that schemes support the growing numbers of cyclists.

A consultation is also being held on strengthening the Highway Code to enhance protections for cyclists. Among other things, Ministers want to improve the legal protections afforded to vulnerable road users and introduce tougher lorry safety standards.

Staffordshire County Council has the authority in the local area with regards to cycle lanes, as well as roads and highways in general. If you notice any further problems, I would encourage you to contact them through the 'Report it' section on their website.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Bell', written in a cursive style.

Aaron Bell MP
Member of Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyme