



Department
for Transport

Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP
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From the Secretary of State
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Dear Liam,

Thank you for your email of 16 May regarding the establishment of a bus lane on the A370 Long Ashton bypass in North Somerset.

The National Bus Strategy sets out Government policy on bus priority. It explains how we expect there to be significant increases in bus priority to increase bus modal share and that bus lanes should be full-time and as continuous as possible.

The Strategy also explains how we expect to see plans for bus lanes on any roads where there is a frequent bus service, congestion, and physical space to install one in Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs).

It is nevertheless for the Local Transport Authority to set hours of operation for bus lanes, taking into account bus timetables and levels of traffic and I can confirm that it is not a condition of BSIP funding received from the Government that the proposed bus lane on the A370 Long Ashton bypass must be in operation 24/7.

I note your concerns and those of your constituents regarding the operational hours of the bus lane on the A370. I have forwarded your comments to my officials who are engaging with North Somerset Council about their BSIP implementation.

Yours ever,

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT