



Mr Gareth Davies
The Comptroller and Auditor General
National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SP

By email to:

Your reference: GF 3530 26

8 July, 2026

Dear Mr Davies,

Lower Thames Crossing

Many thanks for your reply of 6 July regarding our letters of 11 March¹ and 26 June 2026². We were very pleased with your confirmation that the NAO will be examining and reporting on the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC). Scrutiny of the financial arrangements for LTC and the privatisation of the Dartford Crossings and LTC is long overdue and could not be more urgent.

Our main concern, however, is that there was no date given for any future investigation. The urgency arises as significant public funds are already committed and are being spent on the Lower Thames Crossing so far with no scrutiny or up to date value for money assessment / business case in place. The Chancellor committed £590 million for this financial year, and a further “final tranche” of £890 million was committed at the Autumn Budget for 2027 - 2029. However, as our 26 June letter pointed out, and the *Guardian* newspaper revealed on 8 June 2026³ more public funds (£174 million) have been committed to the LTC with no announcement.

¹ [Transport Action Network letter to National Audit Office](#), 11 March 2026

² [Transport Action Network letter to National Audit Office](#), 26 June 2026

³ [Extra £174m earmarked for 'spiralling' bill for Lower Thames Crossing](#), The Guardian, 8 June 2026

Meanwhile the negotiations to privatise the LTC and sell off the Dartford Crossings are continuing, and some early construction works have started. Any NAO investigation needs to happen sooner rather than later, or risk being delivered too late after public funds are spent.

Please can you confirm a date when the NAO will start this investigation into the Lower Thames Crossing.

Of course we would be very happy to cooperate with the NAO's investigation into the LTC as we have unique insights into the project. We look forward to hearing from you with a confirmed date for the investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Abby Coften
Chief Executive
Transport Action Network

cc

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Chair, Committee of Public Accounts
Ruth Cadbury MP, Chair Transport Committee
Jonny Mood, National Audit Office