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4<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Dear Vanessa

### **RIVER TYNE TUNNELS ORDER: REVISION OF TOLLS**

I am directed by the Secretary of State, in response to your email of 14 November 2011, in which you advised of the determination of your client, the Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority (TWITA), that the tolls chargeable in respect of any vehicle or class of vehicle using the tunnel crossing in accordance with Article 42 of *the River Tyne (Tunnels) Order 2005* (the 2005 Order) be revised under the provisions of paragraph 2, Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order. And that the Secretary of State makes an Order authorising the revision of tolls in accordance with his powers under the provisions of Section 13 of *the Tyne & Wear Act 1976* (the 1976 Act) as substituted by Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order.

2. Paragraph 2, Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order provides that the TWITA may revise the tolls payable in respect of any vehicle or class of vehicles set out in *the Tyne Tunnel (Revision of Tolls and Traffic Classification) Order 2001* between the date the 2005 Order came into force, and the day prior to the concession toll date.

3. Paragraph 2, Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order also provides that:

(a) no more than one revision pursuant to that paragraph may be made in respect of any such vehicle or class of vehicle in any period of 12 months; and

(b) no revision pursuant to that paragraph shall result in a toll which exceeds specified limits set out in that paragraph. These specified limits are:

i. in respect of a class 2 vehicle a toll not exceeding £1.80; and

ii. in respect of a non-class 2 vehicle at any time, a toll which is twice the amount payable in respect of such a class 2 vehicle.

4. The existing and proposed tolls are as follows:

	Vehicle or class of vehicle	Current toll (£)	Proposed toll (£)
Class 1	Motorcycle (with or without sidecar) or power assisted cycle	0.20	£0.00
	Class 1 permit holder after discount	0.18	£0.00
Class 2	Mechanically propelled vehicle, other than a vehicle in class 1, having a maximum gross weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes	1.20	£1.40
	Class 2 permit holder after discount	1.08	£1.26
Class 3	Mechanically propelled vehicle other than a vehicle in Classes 1 and 2	1.50	£2.00
	Class 3 permit holder after discount	1.35	£1.80

5. In accordance with Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order, the Secretary of State has considered the TWITA's submissions of:

- (a) a notice of the determination by the TWITA to revise toll charges in accordance with paragraph 2, Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order;
- (b) evidence of the TWITA's compliance with the procedural requirements of Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order; and
- (c) information illustrating how the revised toll has been calculated,

that accompanied your email of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

6. The Secretary of State is satisfied:

- (a) with the submissions referred to in paragraph 5 above;
- (b) that the procedural requirements imposed upon the TWITA by Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order have been complied with by the TWITA; and
- (c) that the proposed tolls set out in paragraph 4 above do not exceed the specified limits set out in paragraph 2, Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order (see paragraph 3(b) above).

7. As a consequence, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the 1976 Act as substituted by Schedule 14 of the 2005 Order, the Secretary of State has approved the making of the Order authorising the revision of tolls.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Fawcett  
Cities Policy Delivery