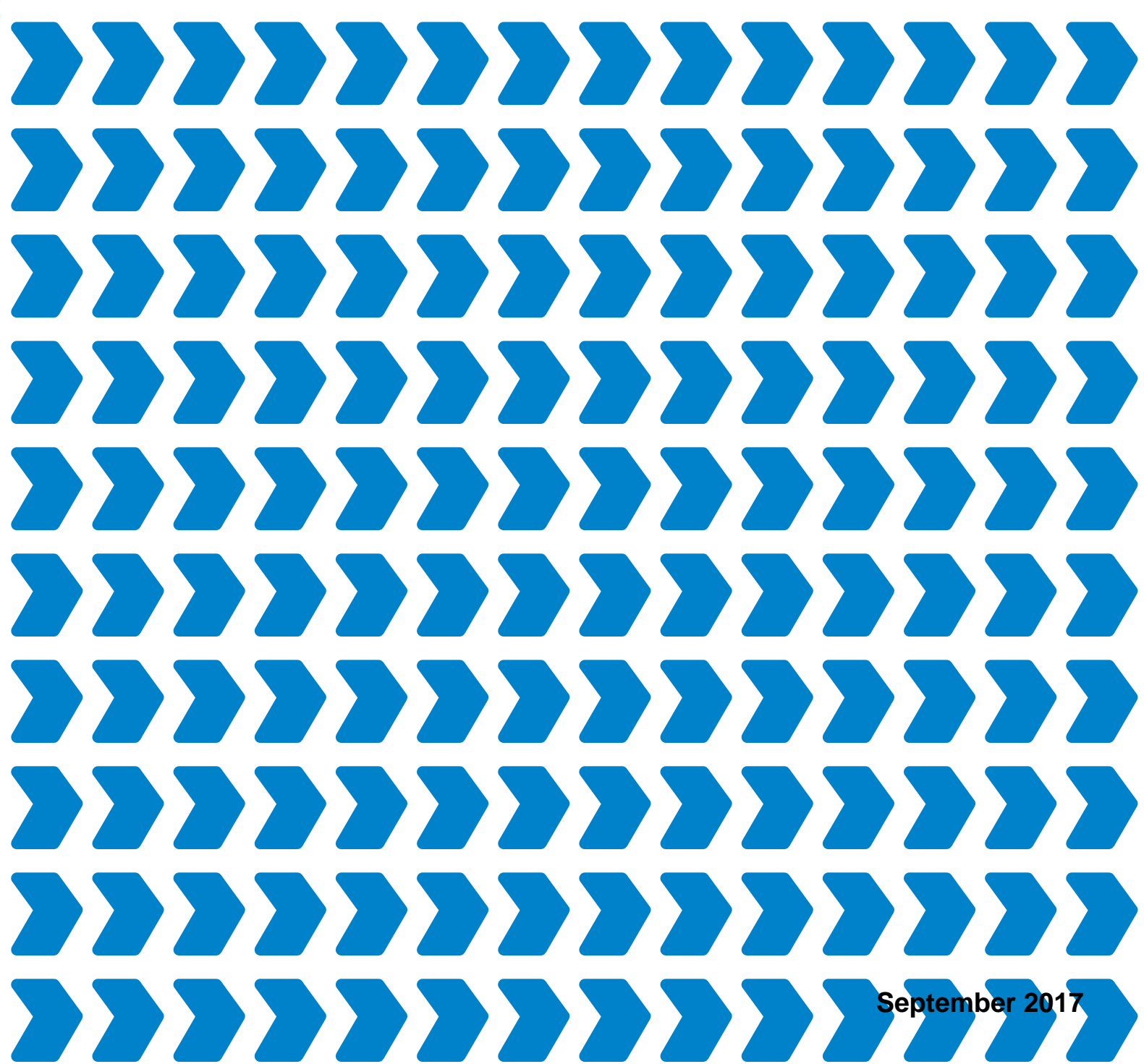




Department
for Transport

Road works: Interim solution for lane rental

Moving Britain Ahead



September 2017

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Proposed interim solution for lane rental

- 1 Lane rental involves charging the promoters who carry out road works for the time their works occupy the highway. Charges are focused on the busiest streets at the busiest times. The consultation published alongside this one on the future of lane rental schemes present four options for the long term future of this policy and explains more about lane rental.
- 2 Transport for London (TfL) and Kent County Council have been successfully operating lane rental on parts of TfL's and Kent County Council's road network since 2012 and 2013. The aim of these pioneer schemes was to test the effectiveness of lane rental as a way of reducing the congestion caused by street and road works. Lane rental allows the local highway authority to impose a charge of up to £2,500 for each day the highway is occupied by the works. The charge was set at a level that reflected the costs of congestion caused by the works and that would encourage works promoters to:
 - Reduce the length of time taken to carry out the works
 - Improve planning, coordination and working methods
 - Carry out more works outside of peak times, for example, making greater use of weekend and evening working where the local environmental impact was acceptable
 - Complete works to the required standard first time and with a permanent reinstatement, reducing the need for the works promoter to return to the site to carry out remedial work
- 3 The schemes were enabled by section 74A of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and the Street Works (charges for occupation of the highway) (England) Regulations 2012 (the 2012 regulations). The 2012 regulations include a 'sunset' clause which means the London and Kent schemes will end in March 2019 unless the regulations are amended.
- 4 This consultation asks for your views, as an interim solution, on a proposal to remove the sunset clause as soon as arrangements can be made. The Government would like to proceed with this action for the following reasons:
 - It will mean that the schemes in London and Kent can continue until a longer term solution is agreed and implemented. This is beneficial both operationally and practically, it will remove any uncertainty, and it will avoid any need for TfL and Kent County Council to wind down operations unnecessarily. Operational changes will involve costs to those authorities and to the utility companies working in those areas.
 - Options 2 and 3 of the ones under consideration will need additional secondary legislation, discussion and possible consultation. Removing the sunset clause now

would help us to ensure that we could keep all options in play until a decision is taken about the future of lane rental. If it is decided that lane rental should end in London and Kent under the baseline option (do nothing) then operations could be wound down in a sensible way that minimises costs and allows for existing contracts to expire.

- 5 The Government still intends to put in place a long term solution as soon as possible. We would hope that this could be during 2019, but this is also dependent on resources being available.
- 6 We realise that this interim solution could have an impact on costs and benefits. These are the same as those presented under the baseline and Option 1 of the main consultation and included in the consultation Impact Assessment that can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/dft#consultations>

How to respond

- 7 This is a two week consultation that ends on Saturday 16th September 2017. There is only one question:

Question

- Do you agree that the DfT should remove the existing sunset clause in the *Street Works (charges for occupation of the highway) (England) Regulations 2012*?
- Yes?
- No?
- Why?

- 8 Please complete and submit the on-line response form that can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/dft#consultations>

- 9 If you need to print out and send in any written responses, please send them to:

Sally Kendall

Department for Transport

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33 Horseferry Road

London SW1P 4DR

Or email them to lane.rental@dft.gsi.gov.uk

- 10 When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If responding on behalf of a larger organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents and, where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.

- 11 The consultation affects those living and working in London and in Kent.