



# Sheryll Murray MP

Dr Melanie Priston  
Tamar Toll Action Group

Sent by email

16 December 2022

Our Ref: ZA71697

*Dear Dr Priston*

**Re: Tamar Bridge Tolls**

Thank you for contacting me about the 30% toll increase due to be introduced by Tamar Crossings. This decision was taken by the Joint Committee along with the two parent authorities Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council.

I attach a document which gives you the history of the Tamar Bridge which I hope you will find useful.

I should make you aware that I have had many discussions with the Transport Secretary and indeed over the Covid period in 2020 the Government made a contribution of £1.6 million to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee. This amounted to 90% of the loss of income that the Joint Committee estimated. The 10% difference could have been realised from toll income had the Lib Dem and Labour Joint Chairmen at the time not taken the decision to suspend tolls for that Covid period.

I have also discussed potential funding resolutions with the Joint Committee, and have approached the Department for Transport to allow an amendment to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Act. This would allow tolls to increase annually at smaller increments thus allowing businesses to better plan for the future. I have received no confirmation from the Joint Committee or parent authorities that they wish me to take this forward.

Furthermore, I have also informed them that I would approach the Government to ask for a one off grant to make up a shortfall but understandably, in view of the £1.6 million already received from the Government just 2 years ago, I would need to have a business case to show that any funding would put the operations on a sound financial footing in the long term. This has not been forthcoming.

I am as disappointed as you at the increase in tolls the Joint Committee has chosen to take and will take the action mentioned above, should I receive a request from the authorities mentioned.

Should I be of any assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Kind regards

*Sheryll Murray*

Sheryll Murray MP  
Your Local Member of Parliament

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