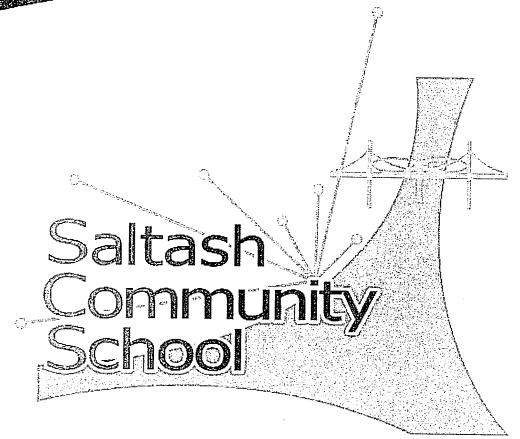


ACHIEVING  
MORE  
TOGETHER



To whom it may concern,

HEADTEACHER:  
Ms K. Littledyke | BA (Hons), MA, NPOH

**Re: Objection to Tamar Bridge Toll Increases and the impact on education for Saltash Community School students**

I am writing on behalf of Saltash Community School to raise our serious concerns about the proposed increase in the Tamar Bridge Tolls. As the chair of governors for Saltash Community School, I am concerned that the proposed increase will negatively impact the education of students at our school for a variety of reasons outlined below.

Firstly, over half our staff (57%) live on the Plymouth side of the bridge and commute daily. These teachers and student support workers incur this cost to come to work here to provide high quality education for the students of Saltash. Some of these staff, such as teaching assistants are on low wages meaning the cost of the bridge is already a significant concern. Indeed, many candidates raise this as a concern when applying for a job. As our school continues to improve, it is vital that we can attract the very best candidates for our positions. An increase in the tolls would jeopardise our ability to recruit high-quality candidates for the benefit of our students.

Secondly, a significant proportion (25%) of our students live on the Plymouth side of the bridge, many of whom are classed as 'disadvantaged', a key priority group for successive governments. These students must travel across the bridge daily, paying the toll to access their education. Some of the disadvantaged families on the Plymouth side of the bridge are the hardest to reach, especially for important events such as parents' evening. We have on many occasions, had to provide money from our school budget to cover the cost of the bridge for families to ensure parents can engage with us. An increase in tolls would directly impact these families, creating an even larger barrier between the school and them, reducing parent engagement- a key factor in students' success.

Thirdly, the school works hard to ensure our students' attendance remains high, another key priority of successive governments. However, the families of students with low attendance that live on the Plymouth side of the bridge often cite the cost of crossing the bridge as a factor in their child's poor attendance. An increase in tolls will add to this problem.

I therefore urge the committee to reject any toll increase due to the impact this will have on the education of the young people of Saltash and the surrounding areas.

Yours sincerely

Rev. Tim Parkman , Chair of Governors  
Saltash Community School



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