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Under-Secretary of State
Dept. of Transport
Great Minster House
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Suggitt's Lane Level Crossing

Further to your recent visit to my constituency and my subsequent question in the House when I referred to Network Rail's proposed closure of the above level crossing and brought your attention to the strong objections lodged by North East Lincolnshire Council and local people. I fully support them.

I was first made aware of this issue when I received a letter dated the 3rd of January. The letter was from Rob McIntosh, the Route Managing Director LNE & M and contained a number of factual inaccuracies; it stated that *"50 freight and passenger trains traverse the crossing every day at speeds of up to 60 mph."*

In fact no freight trains pass over the crossing and since it is about a quarter mile from the terminus trains most certainly do not travel at 60 mph. Indeed the speed limit for incoming trains is reduced to 30 mph immediately after crossing Suggitt's Lane and as trains leave the station they pass a 25 mph sign.

I subsequently met with Andrew Murray from Network Rail who made clear that NR would like to close all level crossings, which to some extent I can understand though it is totally impossible to achieve in anything like a reasonable timescale because alternatives must be provided and in this case the alternatives are totally unacceptable.

One alternative is Fuller Street footbridge which is approximately half-a-mile away and has no disabled facility. Another is to walk to Cleethorpes Railway station around three-quarters of a mile away.

In summary the proposal will cause great inconvenience to local people and have a negative impact on businesses located on the North Promenade.

Network Rail held a 'public information event' last week which further angered local people since it was quite simply a restatement of the reasons they intend to go ahead with the closure.

Can I urge you to use your best endeavours to persuade NR to look again at alternative safety measures rather than greatly inconvenience the law-abiding because of a tiny number of potentially dangerous incidents at the crossing. NR themselves give the number of incidents at 15 over the last ten years.

If a meeting between ourselves and representatives from NR will help I will, of course, be pleased to attend.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Vickers MP

Member of Parliament for the Cleethorpes Constituency