

DP 668/03 - 07  
Andrew Davies AM/AC

Minister for Economic Development & Transport

Gweinidog dros Ddatblygu Economaidd a Thrafnidiaeth

URGENT QUESTION ON TRUNK ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

7 DECEMBER 2004

Our ref/Ein cyf:

Your ref/Eich cyf:



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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21 December 2004

Dear William

During exchanges in Plenary on 7 December you referred to the height of the bridge over the docks in Newport in connection with the new M4 from Magor to Castleton.

A multispan viaduct is planned over Newport Docks and Rivers Ebbw and Usk. It would cross between the North and South Dock. Its height has previously been considered through extensive consultation with Docks and navigation interests in the early 1990's. When the then Secretary of State for Wales announced the Preferred Route in July 1995, the accompanying Statement of Reasons explained that *a height between 20 metres and 30 metres would appear to enable a balance to be struck between the competing factors of navigation clearance and limiting the effect on land based activities on the one hand and visual intrusion on the other.* This is somewhat lower than the Second Severn Crossing which offers a navigation clearance of 37 metres. As there has been no suggestion of a microclimate change in connection with the Second Severn Crossing it would seem that fears about such an effect are unfounded.

Subsequently circumstances have changed including shipping patterns, docks trade, and usage of River Usk wharves. Furthermore Newport Southern Distributor Road bridge crossing over the river at Spittles Point effectively denies commercial shipping upstream. However, the New M4 crossing is further downstream so the Assembly Government will need to refresh previous surveys and update data to ascertain the most appropriate bridge height.

Yours sincerely

Andrew



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL  
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE