

Our ref:
Your ref:

Ms J Rands
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Direct Line: 01306 878621
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By Email Only

Dear Ms Rands

NOISE FROM M20 JUNCTIONS 4 to 5 – IMPORTANT AREA 5977 AND 5986

Thank you for your letter dated 11 April 2014, concerning the request made in April 2013 by David Batty for an additional barrier adjacent to properties 113-131(inclusive) Station Road, Aylesford. Our Chief Highways Engineer, Mike Wilson, has asked me to reply directly as I represent the area team covering this part of M20 in Kent.

The Agency has reviewed this location, using the same criteria applied to all the other First Priority Locations and Important Areas identified by Defra through the Noise Action Plans. Our investigations show that it is far from clear whether a barrier would provide the benefits local residents seek. This is due to the angle of the properties to the M20, the distance to the road and the topography, with part of the M20 at this location being in a cutting and therefore providing some existing benefit to local residents.

However, there are currently wider investigations being undertaken at this location as it was identified, alongside other places, in the Spending Review 2013 as a potential location for a smart motorway. We are currently pulling together a masterplan which will schedule all of the work in the programme. The only definitive statement we can make at the present time is that we have been tasked with delivering these schemes before 2021. We hope to have a more definitive programme in around 6 months time. When our masterplan is firmer, the implications for future noise mitigation in this locality and the location at Willow Road can be clarified.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Bown

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