

Clerk to the Board
Humber Bridge Board
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30 July 2009

Dear Mr

**HUMBER BRIDGE ACT 1971 – SECTION 10
HUMBER BRIDGE – PROPOSED REVISION OF TOLLS**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer to the report of a public inquiry held between 3 and 5 March 2009 into a representation by the Humber Bridge Board, under section 10 of the Humber Bridge Act 1971 (the 1971 Act) to revise the maximum tolls payable for the use of the Humber Bridge.

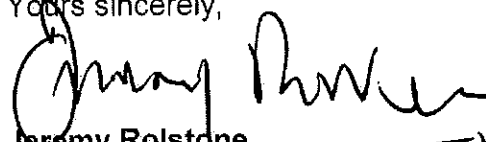
2. The Secretary of State has considered the Inspector's report and his obligations under the 1971 Act. He has had regard to the financial position and future prospects of the undertaking, and is aware that any Order made by him under section 10 of this Act shall prescribe such tolls as in his opinion are reasonably required to be demanded, taken and recovered so as to produce an annual revenue not substantially less, nor substantially more, than is adequate to meet those purposes set out in section 75 of the Humber Bridge Act 1959 (as amended by the 1971 Act).

3. The Secretary of State has decided not to approve the Board's application. He has concerns over the effect that the proposed increase would have on users of the Bridge to meet the increased toll charges during the current economic climate. This in line with the Government's ongoing aim to protect communities and businesses from the economic downturn and to assist economic recovery.

4. I am happy to discuss with you further the reasons for reaching this decision, if this would be helpful to the Board, and to discuss the implications this may have on the Board's position in repaying the outstanding debt owed to the Government.

5. A copy of the Inspector's report from the public inquiry is attached for information.

Yours sincerely,


Jeremy Rolstone