

12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS,

**Re: Menai Suspension Bridge – Phase Two Permanent Works Update**

Many congratulations on your re-election as a Member of the Senedd for the new constituency of Bangor Conwy Môn. We are looking forward to working with you as you continue to represent North Wales.

Thank you kindly for the invitation to your public meeting regarding the Menai Suspension Bridge on 12<sup>th</sup> June. We understand the frustration in the repeated need to close the Bridge due to violations of the 7.5 tonne weight restriction. UK Highways A55 Ltd (“UKH”) will be unable to attend the meeting, however we are eager to provide you with a full briefing on the current status of the project ahead of the meeting.

We would welcome the chance to speak to you at a convenient time to provide you with the most up to date information on the programme and give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. To support you ahead of the meeting, we have produced a brief written update on the programme below with some detail on why we have taken some recent key decisions to manage the Bridge safely.

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**Current Works Progress**

Phase Two permanent works are currently underway across multiple elements of the Bridge. These commenced earlier this year. They include grit blasting, repairs and repainting of the underdeck using the AeroTruss, repairs to the corbels which were not accessible via rope access in the previous phase, and repainting of the parapets following grit blasting and repairs. We are proud to be using a number of local suppliers and subcontractors to carry out this work, supporting employment in North Wales.

**Speed Management Measures**

Speed management measures were installed on the Bridge following a recent near-miss incident close to the work site on the bridge. This posed a real risk to those operating on the bridge. Speed cushions were installed to slow traffic as it crosses the bridge and reduce the risk to those working on it.

**Height Restrictions**

A height restriction of 3m is in place on the Bridge to deter larger, and more likely overweight, vehicles from using the bridge. This is formed of flags placed across the roadway.

**Weight Restrictions**

A weight restriction of 7.5-tonnes is in place on the bridge. This has been imposed following the installation of the AeroTruss system on the bridge which weighs approximately 42-tonnes in total. This system was selected to reduce the need for traffic management on the bridge during the programme. The system allows our subcontractor to carry out works to the underdeck of the bridge without plant and equipment in the road on the bridge. This would require a single-lane closure.

With the additional weight on the Bridge, non-compliance with weight restriction poses a risk to the structure of the Menai Suspension Bridge. Each time an overweight vehicle crosses the bridge, it is essential to assess any damage the vehicle may have caused. The bridge must be closed to carry this

out, both to allow access for workers but also to ensure that no road users cross the bridge before the safety of the bridge is confirmed.

Our priority is the safety of all those who use the Bridge and the preservation of this 200 year old Grade 1-listed heritage asset. The measures and processes which are in place are designed to ensure that safety.

### **Enforcement Challenges**

Enforcement of the weight restriction is dependent on the compliance of all road users. The height, weight and speed restrictions are all well signposted on the approaches to the bridge and have been clearly communicated in the local press and Welsh Government communications. Those managing traffic on the Bridge have faced repeated abuse from road users an issue you have previously condemned – an intervention we are grateful for.

We have been working closely with Welsh Government to explore additional measures to maintain compliance. This includes the use of traffic management on the bridge, with operatives turning away overweight vehicles, and collaboration with both North Wales Police and Welsh Government Traffic Officers. We will continue to review the effectiveness of all measures and introduce new measures when appropriate to improve compliance.

These additional measures incur significant costs, both for UK Highways A55 Ltd and for public authorities. The need to close the Bridge for inspections has a direct knock-on impact on our programme and creates further expenses, as well as causing disruption for road users due to a small number that do not comply.

The use of traffic management is not 100% effective as a recent incident, in which a driver ignored the clear directions of operatives and drove over bridge, demonstrates. In addition, a reliance on North Wales Police for enforcement is unsustainable and draws resources from front line duties. UKH is working with Welsh Government to write to all the relevant haulage associations to emphasise the importance of compliance. UKH is also exploring seeking compensation from those companies whose vehicles have caused closures. It is hoped that this financial penalty will further deter infringements.

The continued support of stakeholders in communicating the importance of compliance is much appreciated.

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We would be grateful if you would advise on suitable dates and times to discuss this further. We would appreciate the chance to provide clarification on our decision-making processes and proposed next steps. Do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards,



**Kash Rahuf**

*Director, UK Highways A55 Ltd*