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Traffic Management Division
Department for Transport
Zone 3/25
Great Minster House
LONDON
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30 September 2004

Dear Elizabeth

NETWORK MANAGEMENT DUTY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

May I take this opportunity to thank you for including the Office of Water Services in the consultation process on the local road network management duty in England.

In general we welcome this part of the Traffic Management Act (TMA) and see it as providing an opportunity to manage our road networks in a more proactive and constructive fashion. The powers available for the appropriate national authority to intervene and appoint its own traffic director in particular provide the incentives for local traffic authorities to make this element of the Act work and succeed.

The requirement for traffic managers to display parity when dealing with highway authority activities and those of other users (for example the utilities) is crucial to engendering an atmosphere of trust and co-operation in managing infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

On the specifics we have a couple of points for you to consider.

We feel that the importance of the traffic manager should normally warrant it being a stand-alone post and not to be an additional role.

There are likely to be a number of issues regarding network management and congestion alleviation arising across the local traffic authority (LTA) areas, which should be dealt with in a consistent and effective manner. Within the guidelines we recommend that there is a regular opportunity to disseminate best practice between the LTAs. A traffic managers' annual workshop may be one way of doing so.

We also think it must also be clear that the network management duty is integrated with other areas of the TMA which will be enacted at a later date,

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especially directions/restrictions and permit schemes (paragraph 11 of your consultation does refer to this need for joined-up application).

Yours sincerely

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