

26th October 2017

Sally Kendall
Department for Transport
3/29 Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Ms Kendall

ACS Submission: Future of lane rental schemes for roadworks

ACS (the Association of Convenience Stores) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department for Transport consultation on the future of lane rental schemes for roadworks. ACS represents over 33,500 convenience stores and forecourt shops including Co-op, McColls, BP and thousands of independent retailers, many of which trade under brands such as Spar, Nisa and Costcutter.

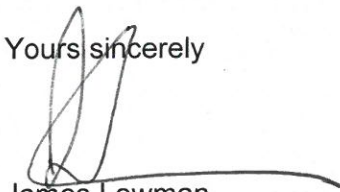
We support the Government's policy objective to minimise the disruption caused by roadworks through effective planning, management and communication of scheduled work. Local shops trade in every type of location and community and often rely on their immediate road network. Roadworks can have demonstrable effects on a convenience store business by blocking shop frontage, restricting access for customers and deliveries or deterring footfall. This can negatively impact retailers' businesses.

We support early engagement between highways authorities and utility companies to minimise the impact of roadworks for businesses and local communities through effective permit and lane rental schemes. The use of surplus funds raised through lane rental schemes should be used to reduce and prevent future disruption on the road network and other adverse impacts for local business.

We believe businesses affected by local roadworks should have easy, effective and swift access to compensation where applicable. Business compensation for roadworks is complex with different schemes according to the utility responsible for the works and business impact. ACS has met with DfT to discuss compensation for roadworks and promotes existing compensation schemes through member guidance. We would welcome further engagement with DfT on promoting guidance on roadworks compensation and management for business.

ACS will continue to work with DfT on minimising the impact of roadworks on local shops. For more information, please contact Steve Dowling, ACS Public Affairs Executive, via steve.dowling@acs.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



James Lowman
Chief Executive

Association of Convenience Stores Limited
Federation House, 17 Farnborough Street
Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 8AG

T 01252 515001 [@ACS_Localshops](https://twitter.com/ACS_Localshops)

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