



Department
for Transport

Paul Wildsmith
Darlington Borough Council

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Paul,

Introduction of a street works permit scheme (2004 Traffic Management Act)

The Government believes that operating a street works permit scheme is a far more effective way of proactively managing street and road works on the local road networks than operating under the older, more passive street works noticing system. Permit schemes also provide an effective way to deliver the network management duty. I am pleased that over 100 local highway authorities in England have permit schemes in place.

On 18 June 2018, we published independent research evaluating the effectiveness of permit schemes. This research demonstrates that permit schemes can drive down the duration of works, and there is evidence to show they provide the best outcomes for all road users. The research report can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/street-works-permit-schemes-evaluation-of-effectiveness> . Its main recommendation is that authorities who do not currently have a permit scheme should consider introducing one as soon as possible. I agree with this recommendation

In addition to the benefits described above, I am convinced that permit schemes are the best way of reducing the congestion caused by street and road works. Furthermore, they will also help to enhance the benefits of the new street manager digital service which will transform the planning, management and communication of works.

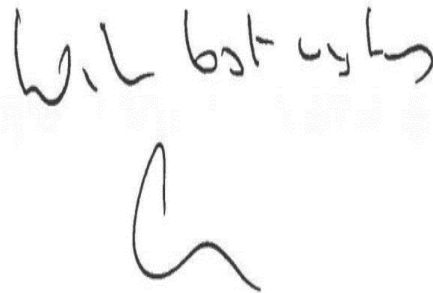
I am therefore asking your authority to consider introducing a permit scheme by **31 March 2019**.

I hope that the case for introducing a permit scheme is sufficiently strong for your authority to take this decision. I would much prefer this to be a change that is made willingly and done in a way that best suits your local area.

I do have powers under section 3(2) of the 2004 Traffic Management Act to direct an authority to introduce such a scheme. I hope that it will not be necessary to use these powers. I will, however, be minded to consider this approach if your local authority continues with what I believe are out-dated and ineffective noticing arrangements.

I am aware that there may be a number of misconceptions around the development and practical introduction of a permit scheme. In order to address these, I have asked officials, working with the Joint Authorities Group, to run a workshop for the South West Authorities, and one for authorities in northern England. These workshops will also provide advice about the minimum requirements needed to introduce a scheme. My officials will let your traffic mangers know the dates of these events shortly.

I look forward to hearing about your plans.

Handwritten signature of Chris Grayling in black ink, consisting of the name 'Chris Grayling' and a stylized flourish below it.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT