

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

### **PART 1 - Information about you**

Name	Tracey Crouch MP
Address	House of Commons, London
Postcode	SW1A 2AA
email	tracey.crouch.mp@parliament.uk
Company Name or Organisation (if applicable)	Member of Parliament for Chatham & Aylesford
Please tick one box from the list below that best describes you /your company or organisation.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small to Medium Enterprise (up to 50 employees)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Company
<input type="checkbox"/>	Representative Organisation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade Union
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Central Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Police
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of the public
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe):
If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or interest group how many members do you have and how did you obtain the views of your members: N/A	
If you would like your response or personal details to be treated <b>confidentially</b> please explain why:	

## PART 2 - Your Comments

1. Do you agree or disagree with the approach of increasing the charges for cash payments for all categories of vehicle by broadly equivalent rates?	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree X
--	--------------------------------	---------------

Please explain your reasons and add any additional comments you wish to make:

*I have consistently been of the view that ever since the road user charges in place at the Dartford Crossing raised enough revenue to meet its building costs in 2003, use of the Crossing should have become free for all motorists. There is no justification for indirectly increasing the tax burden of the already embattled motorists who use the crossing as a means of getting to and from their places of work. These proposals will add further to the downward pressure on wage packets, unnecessarily stifle commerce and disperse traffic to more unsuitable, but free of charge routes i.e. the Blackwall Tunnel.*

2. Do you agree or disagree that current rates of discount should continue to apply for Dart-Tag account holders?	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree X
---	--------------------------------	---------------

Please explain your reasons and add any additional comments you wish to make:

*I agree with the current rates of discount offered to Dart-Tag account holders.*

3. Do you agree or disagree with the approach of introducing changes in 2011 and 2012?	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree X
--	--------------------------------	---------------

Please explain your reasons and add any additional comments you wish to make:

*If motorists are to continue being charged for use of the Crossing, any changes in price structure must coincide with the introduction of a free-flow charging systems. Until such a system is developed and installed, these changes are unjustifiable. Furthermore I think increasing charges prior to Christmas is insensitive which will negatively impact on consumers and local businesses. I would urge a delay in any price increase, should these proposals go ahead.*

4. Do you have specific comments on the draft Order (at Appendix B)?

YES

NO

Please explain your reasons and add any additional comments you wish to make:

5. Do you agree or disagree that the current terms of the Local Residents Discount Scheme should remain unchanged?

Agree

Disagree

Please explain your reasons and add any additional comments you wish to make:

*I would like to see a more equitable scheme established that addresses the imbalance between the number of residents in Essex who are eligible for local residents' discount and those living in Kent. Furthermore, and bearing in mind the stated ambition to encourage take-up by local residents, I advocate abolishing the punitive £10 administration fee.*

6. Do you agree or disagree that other details of the charging regime (i.e. times of operation, vehicle categories and exemptions) should remain the same?

Agree

Disagree

Please explain your reasons and add any additional comments you wish to make:

*I would welcome the proposal to suspend charges at times of severe congestion, under the strict condition that the definition of "severe congestion" is re-evaluated and not implemented in the same form it has been trialled. It is not acceptable to allow congestion to build up to critical levels before charges are suspended and whilst I note these instances will be considered on a case by case basis, I advocate a more practical and logical benchmark from which this contingency can be implemented.*

7. Do you agree or disagree with our assessment of the impacts of the proposals particularly on small firms and protected equality groups?

Agree

Disagree

X

Please explain your reasons and add any additional comments you wish to make:

*Any proposal to levy further charges on small businesses in the current economic climate who have no choice by to use the Crossing, will obviously have a negative impact and the unintended consequence of stifling commerce and regional economic growth.*