

6<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy.

You will be pleased to hear that the Government has added an amendment to the Infrastructure Bill which is designed to create a “Cycling and Walking Investment strategy” with dedicated funding. This amendment makes provision for the Transport Secretary to set a Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, which must specify objectives and financial resources to be made available to achieve them. The Transport Secretary must also report to Parliament on progress towards these objectives. The amendment was passed by the House of Commons and the Infrastructure Bill is now going through the final stages in Parliament before becoming law.

Since 2010, the Government’s spending on cycling overall has more than doubled, with £374 million committed between 2011 and 2015. Spending on cycling is currently about £6 per person each year across England and £10 per person in London and the eight cycling ambition cities. In November 2014, Ministers announced a further £140 million for the cycling ambition cities, and, through the road investment strategy, a further £100 million between 2015 and 2021 for improving the conditions for cyclists and walkers travelling alongside and crossing our strategic road network.

The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy forms part of the Government’s wider action to encourage more walking and cycling. Last year the Department for Transport published a draft Cycling Delivery Plan which included a number of draft Government commitments and actions over the next 10 years, as well as quantified national ambitions, one to double cycling and one to increase the percentage of primary school children who usually walk to school from 48 per cent to 55 per cent, by 2025. It is in this same spirit that the Government has tabled the new clause.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Yours sincerely,



**Alok Sharma MP**