



Soumick Dey
Chief Executive Officer
Vernon Rapley
Chair of the Trust
Riddlesdown Collegiate
Honister Heights
Purley CR8 1EX

Sir Andrew Haines
Chief Executive
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
London Waterloo General Offices
Waterloo Station
London
SE1 8SW

6 February 2025

Dear Mr Dey and Mr Rapley,

I'm so sorry to be writing to you in these terrible circumstances. Jaiden's death is devastating and I send my deepest condolences to his family and all those at Riddlesdown Collegiate. I keenly feel how anxious the school and wider community is about safety at Bourneview crossing and their wish to see it closed; the 3,000-strong petition is testament to that.

We regularly risk assess all our crossings, both individually and also relative to one another. We do this so that we can get the best improvement in public safety from our funding, and it allows us to be transparent about our decision making.

Clearly, in light of the awful loss of Jaiden, it's only right that we review how the risk at Bourneview crossing should be managed. As part of this review, we'll consider whether there is physical space for a new bridge or right of way and the local authority's views on the crossing's future, acknowledging that their approval is needed to close and replace it with an alternative route. We will also consider options that might make the existing crossing safer and the impact on our overall level crossing improvement programme.

We commit to completing this work as quickly as practical, and then communicating agreed next steps to you and your colleagues. I've copied in Lucy McAuliffe, the director for Sussex route, who I know has been in touch with you directly to express her condolences, who'll be happy to help further at this stage.

Jaiden remains in my thoughts at this awful time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Haines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sir Andrew Haines
Chief Executive
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd

cc: Lucy McAuliffe, Director, Sussex Route, Network Rail