



30 August 2024

Dear resident,

We wrote to you as the summer began to explain the potential for disruption from cross channel traffic.

Bookings were at the highest levels they have been for a number of years, a combination of holidaymakers and people heading to the Paris Olympics via both the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel.

You can get a sense of the scale of the undertaking by all Kent and Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF) partners when you see the figures.

Nearly one million passengers came through the Port of Dover between the start of the summer getaway on 18 July and the opening ceremony of the Paralympics in Paris on Wednesday (28 August).

In July alone, Le Shuttle carried 101,920 trucks and 258,375 passenger vehicles.

To cope with this huge number of travellers, Dover TAP and Operation Brock are the tools available to us that have helped us keep the roads moving.

Dover TAP has been activated on 22 occasions since Operation Brock was installed overnight on 10 July.

And Operation Brock has gone into the control phase, to hold and slow filter trucks to the Port of Dover and Le Shuttle, nine times over the summer. It will be removed overnight on Sunday (1 September) into Monday, 2 September.

Despite this pressure on the ports and the road network, we have been able to keep local roads clear to enable communities to go about their daily business.

I would like to thank members of the KMRF (which includes emergency services, council, port and central government staff) who have worked tirelessly throughout to ensure traffic has been able to get to where it needed to with minimum delay.

The trial lorry permit scheme has undoubtedly made a difference. No permit means no entry to the Port of Dover and a lengthy and costly return to the back of the Brock queue. Freight drivers have heeded the warnings, there has been far greater

compliance, and this has meant that the Roundhill Tunnel has been able to be kept open and the need for traffic management at Brenley corner has been reduced.

Following a meeting with the East Cliff Residents' Association in Dover, access will be granted to residents when traffic management is implemented in the town to ensure they can turn left at Woolcomber Street to get home, rather than having a much longer route.

We are talking to people in our communities and want to continue to evolve the measures as far as we can, balancing keeping people safe with allowing the efficient flow of local traffic.

**We want this to be a two-way process so please use the dedicated email address to contact us: [ees@kent.gov.uk](mailto:ees@kent.gov.uk)**

As you know, we will be facing greater challenges as we head into the autumn.

The EU has now confirmed its Entry Exit System (also known as EES) is expected to begin on 10 November and you will start to see an awareness campaign from both the EU and central government and travel operators about the changes and what people can do themselves to prepare.

What we do know is it has the potential to cause further disruption.

We will be looking at the traffic modelling from central government when it becomes available and will then be able to make an honest assessment of what the additional biometric checks will mean for travellers and therefore how we seek to manage the road network.

We continue our dialogue with central government on that. And I want to reassure you we continue to press for more permanent solutions to managing traffic heading through your communities to get across the channel.

When we know more on all of the above, our priority will be to update you.

**Remember, for the latest updates on any services changes and useful contacts in your community during any disruptive periods, you can find out more by visiting the following websites:**

- If you are a resident or business in the Dover District visit [here](#)
- If you are a resident or business in the Folkestone & Hythe District visit [here](#)
- For more information, or to check what is happening on the roads before you go out and about, you can visit: [Check before you travel - Kent County Council](#)
- Plus, follow @KentHighways and @HighwaysSEAST on X.

We appreciate your patience, we appreciate your understanding and we will continue to offer as much help and support as we can.

Toby Howe

Tactical Lead for the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum