



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government



Department  
for Transport

**Dominic Raab MP**  
Minister of State for Housing and Planning

*Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government*

**Jesse Norman MP**  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

*Department for Transport*

18 May 2018

Dear Chief Planning Officer,

In the context of your authority's land use planning functions, we are writing to draw your attention to the continuing shortage of overnight lorry parking facilities.

Last year, the Government commissioned an in-depth nationwide study of this issue. The study confirms that the shortage has grown more acute in certain areas of the country since the last such study was undertaken in 2010, with an estimated need for 1,400 more spaces across the country.

The road haulage sector is dependent on sufficient facilities for drivers being available and in the right locations, to enable drivers to take their regular statutory breaks. Capacity constraints at formal lorry parking facilities frequently translate into problematic 'fly-parking', for example in laybys and industrial estates which lack proper facilities.

A related issue concerns on-road daytime lorry parking in the vicinity of some distribution centres. Modern warehouses tend to have a higher stock turnover than has historically been the case and given the just-in-time nature of modern logistics, at many distribution centres there is insufficient on-site parking to cater for these traffic volumes. We would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the need for developers of new or

expanded distribution centres to take ample account of current and future parking needs, to avoid displacement parking in the surrounding area.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) includes policies to support a vibrant economy, promote sustainable transport and facilitate the provision of transport infrastructure. This was reflected in the draft NPPF, on which we have recently consulted.

We have today published the full National Survey of Lorry Parking report.<sup>1</sup> It is hoped that the report will be a useful resource for local planning authorities and create a better understanding of the issue, in both a local and a national context. Annexed to this letter is a map showing the geographic distribution of the fly-parking 'hotspots' and lorry parking utilisation levels. The Department for Transport will also make available the underlying survey data on request.



**DOMINIC RAAB**



**JESSE NORMAN**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-survey-of-lorry-parking>