

Adran yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Department for Economy and Infrastructure



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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Objection Ref OBJ6921**

**File Ref WG/REB/OBJ6921– Randles & Blank**

**Response to Objector's Evidence: Mr Jeremy Randles & Ms Jane Blank**

## **1. GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION**

### **1.1 Details**

- 1.1.1 Jeremy Randles and Jane Blank have submitted a Statement of Evidence dated 17 July 2017 in relation to the draft statutory Orders associated with the Welsh Government's proposals for the M4 Corridor around Newport.
- 1.1.2 The Welsh Government understands the evidence submitted to be based on the following:
- 1.1.3 Instead of building the Scheme, the Welsh Government should vary the toll on the Severn Crossings to reduce peak flows of traffic using the existing M4.

## **2. WELSH GOVERNMENT'S VIEW**

### **2.1. Response**

- 2.1.1. The draft Plan (preferred strategy) outlining options for addressing problems of capacity, safety and resilience on the M4 Corridor around Newport was subject to consultation between 23 September and 16 December 2013. Following this consultation, the Plan, which includes a new section of motorway south of Newport, became Welsh Government policy in July 2014.
- 2.1.2. Responsibility for the Severn Tolls has not been devolved to the Welsh Government and the powers remain with the UK Government in Westminster. It is not Government policy to introduce variable tolling on the Severn Bridges. On 18 July the Government announced that the tolls would be abolished at the end of 2018.