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for Transport

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Dear Oliver

Thank you for your further letter of 4 February, on behalf of North Hertfordshire District Council, about reinstatement of roads by utilities and statutory undertakers.

I note the suggestion the Council has made regarding penalising utilities whose works overrun. The Coalition Government has also been concerned about the amount of congestion that street works cause and considers that too many street works do overrun. We therefore introduced legislation in October 2012 to increase the charges that local authorities can levy on utilities if their street works overrun the agreed period. The daily maximum is £5,000, with higher charges on the fourth and subsequent days. The new legislation can be accessed at the following website:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2272/contents/made

The charges should be levied as set out in chapter 10 of the 'Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes and Related Matters' which is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/street-works-overrun-charges

I hope this helps to clarify the position.

Yours sincerely

ROBERT GOODWILL