



National Audit Office

Comptroller and Auditor General
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Helping the nation spend wisely

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Reference GF/1520/16
Date 21 September 2016

Dear Lord Berkeley,

RE: THE CASE AGAINST THE THAMES TIDEWAY TUNNEL & IN FAVOUR OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR THE THAMES TIDEWAY

Thank you for your letter of 29 July about the Thames Tideway Tunnel. I hope you will accept my apologies for the delay in providing you with a reply.

The report you provided with your letter argues that the Tunnel is an inferior option to Integrated Water Resource Management, and that it should therefore be cancelled. These arguments are relevant to our investigation which currently under way into the Tideway Tunnel, so I am grateful that you have shared them with me. I expect to report by the end of this year with findings which I will be of relevance to the concerns set out in your letter and the report. My will build on 2014's *Thames Tideway Tunnel: early review of potential risks to value for money*. It will consider in particular the evidence base supporting:

- the environmental design criteria for compliant solutions; and
- the option appraisal which led to Tunnel being chosen as the government's preferred solution to sewer spills into the Thames Tideway in 2007.

The report will also consider the continued exposure of customers and the taxpayer to risks on the project, and what the public sector steering group is doing to manage these risks. My team will be mindful of your comments during the investigation.

Sincerely

AMYAS C E MORSE