

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
76 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DR

15<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your letter of 24<sup>th</sup> January in response to my correspondence in November. The LGA participated fully in the winter resilience network which was set up by your officials to monitor salt stocks and provide advice to you on decisions about distribution of the strategic salt stocks. We found this arrangement extremely helpful and constructive and I hope you will agree that this partnership approach was key to ensuring that the country was able to respond appropriately to challenges and issues as they arose.

I am writing however, to follow up on my letter of 7<sup>th</sup> January in which I asked that you consider, as a matter of urgency, the case for direct immediate financial assistance to councils to allow us to deal with the significant additional costs caused by the damage to local roads by the cold weather we experienced in December. You will be aware that the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly have already granted additional funding to local authorities to assist them in dealing with the impact, and I would ask that you provide similar assistance to English Authorities. With the risk of further severe winter weather decreasing, councils are now keen to prioritise work to repair the roads which is increasingly causing concern to their communities.

Yours



Cllr Peter Box  
Chairman, LG Group Economy and Transport Programme Board