**Annex of comments from constituents for Statement from Barbara Keeley MP**

*I think it's disgusting. Why not put it up to 15p or even 20p. £1 each way is going to be £14 a week and as I'm a pensioner not affordable.*

(Barbara Smith)

*My understanding is that the Toll is for the very small brick bridge. This is a vital route for many residents of Lymm and Cadishead and Irlam. The increase in price will cause major inconvenience and encourage traffic onto the already over congested M6 and M60*

(Russel Wood)

*Strongly oppose the work. The increase in cost will make the trip unaffordable for passing daily each way to and from my place of work. As a result significantly increasing daily commute times on the M6 and subsequently the volume of traffic. The bridge is in disrepair now and wondering what happens to the money we all currently use to pay to cross?*

(Jack Dixon)

*I will use the M6 Thelwall Viaduct on [principle]. Peel haven't saved their toll money! Multi-million-pound businesses robbing off the working man. Put it up to a tenner because you are proposing a death warrant to that route!!!*

(Joe Faiers)

*The toll is actually for the existing and original bridge over the Mersey. The bridge still stands of course but the river no longer runs under it. Therefore, the toll and presumably the act of Parliament can only refer to this original bridge. The bridge over the Manchester Ship Canal must surely be the sole responsibility of the Manchester Ship Canal owners i.e. PEEL. They are pulling a fast one here.*

(David Finch)

*It’s disgusting. Sheer naked profiteering. The bridge in question I believe is not the iron bridge rather a smaller stone bridge that crosses the original course of the river (pre canal days). I am not sure the type of contractor they are planning to use but 6.5 million pounds seems steep to me. If they are raising funds to repair the iron bridge then that is on them as it is toll free.*

(David Edmonds)

*Peel Holdings bought the Manchester Ship Canal Co. for a song back in the late 80s early 90s. They have never invested in maintaining any of the infrastructure over the canal, including Barton Swing Bridge. They charge people to cross the canal each way and have profited from these charges for at least 30 years. These charges more than pay for the upkeep of the bridge over the canal, even though that isn't the bridge we are being charged to travel across. Peel holdings should not be able to profit from an access right, that is in their domain to maintain, when they haven't carried out any maintenance. Any price increase requested should be rebuked.*

(Sarah Dodd)

*I feel that this increase is too much of a jump for people who use the bridge regularly. The price should be allowed to increase by not by such a large amount so quickly. The bridge also needs to modernise - digital payment options etc.*

(Jessica Morrissey)

*An increase in the toll charge will place a financial burden on drivers who rely on the bridge to go to work, visit family etc. Alternative routes are not only more costly but will impact on the environment.*

(Janet Grimshaw)

*I couldn’t afford to use the bridge if it was increased to £1. This would cause me to have to change my routine and have an impact on my life as a result. I don’t think it would represent value for money. The bridge is outdated with its charges and a blight on the local community. I would welcome Peel working with its neighbours and looking to improve life around their projects & developments by removing the toll altogether*.

(Andrew Moore)

*Disgraceful. But what do people expect from Peel? I think they want to change Greater Manchester and Cheshire to Greater Peelshire! If it does increase to £1 then I shall not use the bridge.*

(Brian Donaghy)

*Will bicycles still be free of charge? the access roads on both sides have some bad potholes, not very good for bicycles, needs more upkeep. If I had to drive over each day for work etc then £1 a day is a lot over the year*

(John Dwan)

*I feel strongly that this is excessive. It will impact on working people and those who use the bridge just to access for leisure. I believe that Peel have been collecting the toll for many years and should be expected to use what they have collected in order to complete necessary works. One would ask how much have they collected over the years and what have they done with it. In addition, what allows them to increase the toll by such a large percentage? Another matter is that the toll was originally imposed on the old stone bridge that crossed the River Mersey before the Manchester Ship Canal was built. The river was diverted into the canal and so Warburton bridge was later built. It is not in the same position as the old bridge and is barely visible nowadays at the side of the road. So what gives Peel the right to claim a toll? Are they using the original toll on the old small bridge to try to claim moneys for repairs to the road and newer Warburton Bridge? I would be grateful if this can be looked into as it appears Peel are taking advantage and trying to profit out of this instead of meeting their responsibilities, or even getting the public to fund it all.*

(Mary Bracegirdle)

*Ridiculous. The Toll charge is not for crossing the iron girder bridge over the Manchester Ship Canal but for crossing the bridge that is now in the vicinity of a dried up river bed that used to be the River Mersey before the Ship Canal was constructed.*

(Anthony Challoner)

*Ludicrous and totally out of order. Anything to do with Peel means money making, it appears they do not care for anything other than money making regardless of how people feel. Money always wins should be their mantra. I love Warburton Bridge dearly and have done since I was a child. I remember when the toll was pennies. It was always exciting and a thrill going over and paying your money. It felt magical then and it does now. I am sure nobody would object to paying a little more but £1 is too ridiculous. Couldn't the public crowd fund or own it themselves via donations? I live in Worsley and Peel seem to have become our landlords, I have no love for them or their development ideas. I do hope this can be stopped!*

(Brenda Rizzo)

*I am strongly against this extortionate price rise. This is likely to cut off vital links to elderly family in Partington and could reduce the amount of visits I am able to make. The bridge is already a source of congestion and pollution due to the slowing of traffic to pay the current toll*

(Craig McCabe)

*The potential increase is massively disproportionate and holds those in Irlam/Cadishead to financial ransom as the ONLY other (vehicular) routes across the Ship Canal are at either the M6, M60 or the lifting bridge by the side of the M60. At the very most, any increase should be no more than 20p in each direction. As it is, the toll brings a few hundred thousand pounds a year to Peel, who greedily want to increase it (almost) tenfold. Peel are utterly despicable and do not care one jot for local residents - all they want is money. By any means.*

(Tracy Mellett)

*There should be no increase to the toll as over the years there has been a tenfold increase of traffic paying to use the bridge. To go around the other ways i.e. M6 or M60 or through Urmston /Davyhulme not only, puts more time on what should be a short journey but creates more bottle necks and more unnecessary pollution. This bridge has given peel ports a nice income over the years and some of the profits should have been spent on it, to upgrade the bridge and the surrounding roads. After all this bridge is not just for the public to get across but it is there for emergency vehicles to get across to both sides of the canal to assist any accidents or ship fires etc on the canal*

(Paul Hewitson)

*Always thought 12p to cross the bridge was strange but £1 is ridiculous*

(Jody Dobson)

*I believe that this increase is disproportionate, and unnecessary, given the many many years that Peel have collected the toll. They have plenty of money to pay for maintenance and thus is yet another example of them amassing wealth at the expense of others. If anything the toll should be reduced to 10p*

(Sue Campayne)

*12p to £1 is a huge jump and ridiculous to even contemplate asking local residents to pay*

(Amy Taylor)

*Peel should not be allowed to increase the toll by such a huge amount. It is immoral. The traffic queues that are caused by the toll booth are huge and the level of pollution the queues cause is high. Peel should remove the toll altogether and allow the traffic to flow freely.*

(Julie King)

*My current costs at 12p per crossing are approximately £65 a year. If the toll goes up to £1 a crossing, I estimate that it will go up to over £500 a year. This would force me to look for a different job where I don't have to cross the bridge or to try and move to the other side of the bridge.*

(Tim Denbow)

*As far as I am aware, the toll is not for the steel bridge, aka Warburton Bridge, but for a small bridge just before the toll booth over a dried up river bed. In these so called green enlightened times I find it surprising it is allowed to continue causing excessive air pollution due to the congestion caused at peak times. Wrong on a number of fronts, not least those mentioned above. Apart from Peel Holdings holding the local authority and people to ransom, the road to the toll booth is in a terrible condition, looking like a patchwork quilt of potholes.*

(Ian Hubbard)

*It would cause significant financial hardship to me and family*

(Bernadette Woodcock)

*I think it's abusive. They can double the price, 25p but £1 it is too much.*

(Francisco Leon-Ortiz)

*I think it’s a disgrace. A 733% increase!! Why should we be forced to pay such extortionate fees just to cross a bridge?! I use the bridge daily which means my weekly toll fees go from £1.68 to a minimum of £14 if it’s £1 each way! That’s an extra £768 I’m out of pocket because a penny-pinching company won’t pay for their own repairs with the money they’ve accumulated over the years from the toll bridge. Why has the bridge been left in such disrepair to the point they need to increase prices by 733%?*

(Steven Bower)

*It's Peel trying to rob us. I believe that the toll was for the bridge just before the toll point not the bridge over the canal.*

(William Kennedy)

*I think it is outrageous! It would significantly increase my outgoings. Myself and my family often go for dinner in Lymm and I visit the shopping centre in Partington. If the toll is increased, I will no longer visit these areas or if I do it will be less often. Instead, I will opt to travel outside of the area which I think is unfair as I would like to support regional businesses rather than businesses in the big cities.*

(Emily Brabin)

*I do NOT agree with such a large increase.*

(Gail Gregory)

*Should not be allowed as the original bridge is not in use and the main bridge is the same as the one in Latchford with is not a toll*

*(Graham Wright)*

*If the increase is to fund the bridge over the canal that is not the bridge that you pay a toll for and therefore the article is misleading I do not agree in an increase to £1 as I think it will have a big impact on those who use it for work*

(Jan Pelling)

*I think it's disgusting and nothing but greedy, but that is Peel, they have ruined everything around Irlam and Cadishead area with their own greed including Boysnope golf club.*

(Ann Margaret Armitage)

*I think it’s completely ridiculous and exploitative. There is no way that Peel’s takings over the life of the bridge to date have been spent, and therefore they should be holding monies in reserve for any works required, not seeking to profit further from normal people.*

(Cllr Hannah Robinson-Smith)

*I am not opposed to a reasonable % increase however I am opposed to the size of the increase as this will be a big cost to me weekly.*

(Theresa Bhatti)

*very angry !!! if this went ahead, I would most likely have to give up my job as I wouldn't be able to afford the increase. If there has to be an increase in price, why jump this much ?? 20p would be a lot fairer even though this would still eat into my budget. The increase would also be very detrimental to Lymm village as it is a lovely place to visit but the cost would put off a lot of families. And another point, what has been happening to the money collected thus far? Why hasn't the bridge been maintained before to a good state of repair? it has been patched up and patched up but not made any difference-temporary filled in potholes that fill up with rainwater when the weather is bad !!!! and wash the tarmac out !!!*

*(*Barbara Hill)

*It’s extortionate, it will also increase traffic as people will avoid it and go different routes. I travel to Sale for work and my route will be affected as people will use my route on the motorway vs using the bridge. I also do not wish to spend £1 every time I want to see family or use it as an alternative route if motorway traffic is bad*

*(*Keeley Birchenough)

*It is outrageous. Paying £1:25 per week now. To a whopping £10 per week. That is £5 per month now to £40 per month with the suggested increase. Why should the motorist pay for something that should have had a better upkeep over the years - it holds the traffic up - a 15-minute journey now both sides are open takes me 3 times as long as that's 45 minutes. Get rid of the toll*

(Janice Sanderson)

*I think a real terms increase of more than 800% on any service or product should not be viable. I think most would accept some form of small price increase but such a significant amount when inflation is rising rapidly is not acceptable.*

*(*Gareth Shaw)

*Completely unjustified. For those people who use this bridge for a variety of reasons this astronomical rise will have a significant impact on not only their pockets but on many aspects of their daily lives*

*(*Debbie Parker)

*Ridiculous, it's high time the antiquated tolls were removed full stop, we already pay in taxes for these things*

*(*Robert Davies)

*Ridiculous my daughter attends A levels at Trafford college Altrincham and so she doesn’t have to get up at the crack of dawn to go I take her and then come back that way. It will not be affordable for me to do it if it goes up to the proposed £1*

*(*Samantha Johns)

*The increase would put me in financial difficulty*

*(*Michelle Forrest*)*

*It is disgusting, especially given the state of the surrounding roads and the bridge itself.*

(Leanne Fagan)

*It’s ridiculous! Most mornings you queue to get over it anyway. A hike from 12p to £1 is just going to add so much on to my commute!*

*(Michaela Lewis)*

*It would cost me £2.00 a day extra to go to work, That's nearly £700 pounds per year, The road and Bridge is in a shocking condition and Peel Holdings have proved over the last few years they are incapable of doing required repairs in a timely manner.*

*(*Darran Jackson)

*Completely wrong. It is a travesty that the toll exists in the first place and is a hangover from Victorian times. For Peel to charge locals a £2 return trip will have a significant impact on those with families on each side of the bridge or those who commute. Even for us, who I would regard as more occasional users, this represents £20 a month. I am concerned about the impact on hard working families who are already struggling with the financial impact of covid, increasing fuel costs and more tax increases being imposed in 2022. This toll increase is wrong morally and the timing adds insult to injury.*

*(*Steve Rescorla)