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South Woodham Ferrers Town Council
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12 April 2022

Dear user of our level crossing,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Department for Transport (DfT). Due to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) we are unable to release your details to them so they can contact you directly.

DfT is currently consulting on changes to signs at private level crossings. The existing signs have been in use since 1996 and now need to be updated to keep pace with changing technology and user practice. In particular, there is now a far wider range of people, including couriers or delivery drivers, who may need to use a private crossing than in 1996, not all of whom will be familiar with their safe use. The new signs are considered by DfT and others involved in their design to be a significant improvement on the existing signage as they are clearer, simpler and feature modern pictograms, making them more accessible to different types of users.

As a regular user of private level crossings, DfT is particularly keen to hear your views on the new signs. There are also other proposals set out in the consultation that may be of interest, particularly that the concept of "authorised users" is outdated. The consultation considers that it is impractical to expect authorised users to brief all other users on the safe use of private crossings.

DfT propose that introducing clearer and simpler signage and continuing outreach to delivery and logistics companies is a more effective way of making private crossings safer for all users.

The consultation runs from **6 April to 1 June 2022** and can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-signage-at-private-level-crossings>. Paper copies can be requested by contacting rail.safety@dft.gov.uk.

Kind regards

Robert Wainwright
Head of Level Crossings Safety
Network Rail