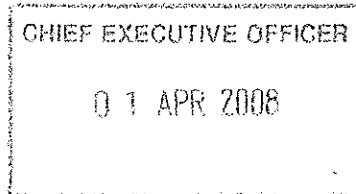


Department for  
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31 March 2008

Dear Joe,

**Highway Maintenance PFI pathfinder bid**

Thank you for submitting your Highway Maintenance PFI Expression of Interest and more recently, the refresher bid, and for presenting the bid to Departmental officials.

The Minister has now carefully considered the five short-listed bids. I am pleased to tell you that the Minister would like your authority to prepare an Outline Business Case (OBC) in support of your Highway Maintenance PFI proposals.

We have already agreed a date for an initial meeting with your colleagues to discuss the way forward. I will write to you again following the meeting to confirm the outcome and next steps.

I am copying this letter to Phil Crockford at the Government Office for the South East.

Yours sincerely,

Jens Reinke