



Torpoint Development and Localism Meeting
February 2nd 2023

Who are we?



We are a community group formed to campaign on behalf of residents and businesses of South East Cornwall & Plymouth, plus other regular users of the two crossings.

Our aim is the abolition of tolls on the Tamar Crossings

We're campaigning for a #TollFreeTamar

That's for regular bridge users. That's for regular ferry users.

That's for all regular users of both crossings

Who are we campaigning for?

We're campaigning for **those being hit hardest by the toll rises** during this unprecedented cost of living crisis:



- People accessing medical or dental care at Derriford Hospital or elsewhere in Plymouth
- Families supporting relatives on opposite sides of the River
- Carers making frequent trips across the Tamar to look after their clients
- Parents taking their children to school
- SE Cornwall business owners

Why are we campaigning?

We're campaigning to reduce the **cumulative significant impact** on local residents and businesses.



- Plymouth and Cornwall have deprived areas and the area as a whole has **lower than average wages**
- High costs for people **crossing multiple times a week** for work
- Toll collection impact on **congestion and pollution**
- Inherent **accident risks** from multiple toll booth lanes converging
- **Charges for deliveries** to Cornwall that are free to deliver to Plymouth
- Current Government strategy on **levelling up** and **Devolution deal**

Background to the Campaign



Our aim is to create the political will for our Councillors and MPs to fight for change on our behalf and obtain central funding for the crossings

Who will we be petitioning for support?

MPs: Sheryll Murray, Johnny Mercer, Luke Pollard, Gary Streeter

All Plymouth and Cornwall Councillors, including those on the JC

All town and parish councillors in the area

Background to the Campaign



- Groundswell for change has been intensified by recent events, i.e. the unfair tag price increase 9 months prior to cash price increase
- Tag price increased by the Tamar Crossings prior to consideration of the public consultation results
- We are seeking a fair deal for residents, businesses and other regular users of the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry

Comparison with other bridge tolls



Bridge Location	Car Cost	Concessions
Tamar Bridge	£2.60	50% off for tag
Dartford Crossing M25	£2.50 (each way)	£20 per year for locals
Mersey Gateway Bridge	£2.00 (each way)	£10 per year for locals
Mersey Tunnels	£1.80 (each way)	80p for locals
Tyne Tunnels	£1.90 (each way)	10% discount for pre-pay
Humber Bridge	£1.50 (each way)	10% discount for tag
Whitney Bridge	£1.00	60p multi-crossing per day
Clifton suspension bridge	£1.00 (each way)	57p for multi-buy

Bridges marked as charging each way are significantly longer than the Tamar Bridge.

i.e.

Tamar – 642m

Dartford – 2872m

Mersey Gateway – 2200m

Humber – 2220m

Cars/Light Goods Toll Levels – Bridge & Ferry



Discounted price vs cash price

May 2019	£0.75	£1.50
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May 2020	£1.00	£2.00
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May 2022	£1.30	£2.00
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Jan 2023	£1.30	£2.60
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2024	*annual increase in line with RPI?*	
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The Joint Committee plan to ask the Government to consider allowing tolls to increase annually and automatically in line with inflation and the Retail Price Index (RPI).

Why both crossings?

- The Torpoint Ferry and Tamar Bridge are important routes between Devon and Cornwall, both providing **critical transport links** to their respective local communities for many essential services
- There is **no viable alternative route for either community** - the alternative is via single lane 500 year old bridge at Gunnislake - weakening the bridge and contributing to pollution in Gunnislake.
- The bridge and ferry are **conjoined by the Tamar Bridge Act**; the responsible authorities are common. It is counterproductive to try and treat them as separate issues and campaign only on behalf of one, and would divide the communities.
- We reach out to residents of the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula for their **support and combined voice** in lobbying our shared MP.





Description	Commissioned by	Build location	Budget
Torpoint Ferry 2005 (x3) 73m long	TB&TFC	Ferguson Marine Shipyard, Port Glasgow	£14.7 Million
Woolwich Ferry. Two x 60m diesel-electric hybrid vessels each with 210 metres (690 ft) of space for road vehicles over several lanes and dedicated cyclist accommodation. The vessels are licensed to carry 150 passengers segregated from road traffic.	TfL	2 new ferries commissioned and built in Poland, in 2017. These vessels entered service in February 2019	£20 million
Isles of Scilly. 3 x replacement ferries for passenger and cargo	UK Government	TBC	£48.4 million levelling up grant announced in October 2021 budget
Fair Isle Ferry. 1 x Replacement RoRo passenger ferry for the Shetland Islands	UK Government	TBC	£27 million levelling up grant announced January 2023
2 x replacement 103m car ferries for Caledonia McBrayne servicing Scottish Islands. To carry 1,000 passengers, 127 cars or 16 HGV's. 1st ferry intended to serve Arran, the 2nd to serve the Western Isles	Scottish Devolved government	Ferguson Marine Shipyard, Port Glasgow	Original contract £97 million. Current estimate a further £250 million to completion.
2 x 94.8-metre ferries will each have capacity for up to 450 passengers and 100 cars or 14 commercial vehicles. Replacement ferries for Caledonia McBrayne servicing Islay	Scottish Devolved government	Cemre Marin Endustri shipyard, Turkey.	£91 million
2 x 94.8-metre ferries will each have capacity for up to 450 passengers and 100 cars or 14 commercial vehicles. Replacement ferries for Caledonia McBrayne servicing the Little Minch routes to Lochmaddy and Tarbert	Scottish Devolved government	Cemre Marin Endustri shipyard, Turkey.	£115 million

What do we need from you?

- Your support
- Your opinions
- Your suggestions
- Spread the word!

Contact: chair@tamartollactiongroup.org

Website: www.tamartollactiongroup.org

Facebook: [Tamar Toll Action Group](https://www.facebook.com/TamarTollActionGroup)

