From:

To: publiccorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk; A303 Stonehenge

Cc: Subject:

Redetermination of Stonehenge Road Scheme

Date: 08 March 2022 21:20:36

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP Prime Minister Direct Communications Unit 10 Downing Street London SW1A AA

publiccorrespondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk, A303Stonehenge@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Re: Redetermination of Stonehenge Road Scheme

Dear Prime Minister:

The Secretary of State for Transport wants to make a new decision on the Stonehenge road scheme. He asked National Highways for responses about five matters he wishes to consider i.e. Alternatives, Policy, Carbon, Environmental Information and Any Other Matters.

National Highways has responded and the Secretary of State for Transport has now invited comments on those submissions and any other relevant information.

The submissions by National Highways are technical and lengthy. The Stonehenge Alliance and its expert advisers are preparing a full technical response.

National Highways has not:

made any changes to the Scheme to take the 2021 World Heritage Committee Decision into account; acknowledged that the Secretary of State found the Scheme's impact on the proposed western cutting area would be "significantly adverse";

fully assessed alternative routes less damaging to the World Heritage Site e.g., a southern bypass route would be cheaper even if there might be some problems with it, while a longer tunnel would reduce impact on the World Heritage Site;

explored alternatives to hard engineering solutions in the context of safeguarding and enhancing the World Heritage Site - e.g. a package of measures to reduce road traffic, road emissions and improve access to the South West:

updated the scheme construction costs; nor updated the carbon assessment and costs.

Other changes since the Examination closed:

concern for climate change has increased with the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and the need to take urgent action to reduce emissions, not increase them as any new Stonehenge road scheme would; and

the Environment Act 2021 sets new ambitions around nature recovery.

Yours sincerely, Robert E. Rutkowski

cc:

Keir Starmer, Leader

