

## **Dear Secretary of State**

In relation your the current requests for comments on submissions from National Highways I would earnestly like to make the following points:

1. National Highways has failed to make changes to the Scheme in order to take the decision of UNESCO World Heritage Committee into account. This is a serious omission.

2. National Highways has failed to fully assess alternative routes less damaging to the World Heritage Site.

3. National Highways has failed to explore alternatives to hard engineering solutions, for instance measures to reduce, re-direct or redistribute road traffic at times of peak usage

4. National Highways has failed to acknowledge that within a few years the damaging effect on noise and pollution of the present route will be mitigated by the use of electric vehicles, significantly undermining the requirement for a tunnel.

5 National Highways has failed to update the construction costs of the scheme or the carbon assessment and costs of construction.

I urge you now to take fully into account the increasing concern about climate change since the earlier enquiry, especially the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the very urgent need to reduce emissions, which will be completely undermined by the construction of this massive engineering project.

I believe there are compelling grounds for a thorough re-examination by an independent panel before you re-determine the application for a Development Consent Order for the very same road scheme and I hope you will take action accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

David Leigh, PhD, BSc, Dip. Cons., FSA, FIIC, ACR