A303 Stonehenge
UNESCO Advisory Mission
27 September 2022 17:11:59

Dear Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP,

I write to you in your role as Transport Secretary and in response to the letter of invitation of 14th September to comment on National Highways' submission.

I agree with the principle finding of the Advisory Mission report, that is that the scheme would have an adverse impact on the OUV of this World Heritage Site and that a southern bypass should be further explored.

The Mission admits that at the very least the western limit of the tunnel should be extended to the WHS boundary.

National Highways has simply reiterated many of the arguments it raised previously in an attempt to justify a scheme which is clearly unacceptable to the Government's independent specialist examiners, to UNESCO'S World Heritage Committee, and to the former Transport Secretary who agreed with the examining panel that the scheme would be 'significantly adverse' overall.

The High Court judgement quashed the DCO in part because the Transport Secretary had not given proper consideration to alternatives.

National Highways' response fails to alleviate any of the above concerns.

I continue to object most strongly to the proposals and hope that the scheme will be abandoned. Should you intend to proceed with the scheme, I trust that it will be subject to another formal public Examination so that all of the new information submitted by National Highways and others since 2020 may be fully and openly discussed and taken into account and advised upon by the Government's independent Planning Inspectorate.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Julie Hayman