

Mr Andrew Teasdale

6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Mr Andrew Stephenson MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**A1 in Northumberland**

Dear Mr Stephenson,

As a resident and business owner in Northumberland as well as a stakeholder in the above scheme I am very disappointed to learn that the decision by the secretary of state for transport has been delayed until 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Following a very determined and well supported campaign by Anne-Marie Trevelyan the green light was given in late 2014 by then Prime Minister David Cameron who pledged to dual approximately 13 miles of single carriageway A1 during the next parliament. The scheme was scheduled to start in 2020.

I fail to understand how National Highways, the Examining Authority and Department for Transport, all government bodies, and experts, don't know or understand each other's expectations, and rather than delaying decisions the Secretary of State should be encouraging the parties to present information that is going to stand up to scrutiny and have an opportunity to be revised within the 3 month assessment period. If the scheme ever does start that's about 8 years from the announcement, not what was promised, nor something I imagine a conservative government is particularly proud of.

National Highways has been asked to submit answers to queries by the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 so why does the Secretary of State require an additional 4½ months to make a decision when the original period is only 3 months?

The case for dualling the A1 in Northumberland has been made, is long overdue and is very important to the prosperity of the region. The Labour Government cancelled the previous attempt to dual the A1 in 2006 and took its voters in the north for granted, I certainly hope the Conservative government doesn't repeat the same mistake.

Yours Faithfully

Andy Teasdale

CC Anne Marie Trevelyan