

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Secretary of State for Transport

25th October 2023

By email to: [REDACTED]

Our Ref: ZA32939

Dear Mark,

As the Member of Parliament for Berwick-upon-Tweed, I write further to my letters of 5th September and 6th October concerning the A1 in Northumberland, to which I cannot find any record of having yet received replies.

The Prime Minister's full endorsement and announcement of funding for dualling to go ahead remains most welcome, but I understand from the National Highways team that any further work on the project remains dependent on your outstanding approval of the Development Consent Order (DCO).

As you know, the deadline for the decision was extended until to June next year, so my constituents and I wish to entreat you to grant approval sooner than that, especially since the extension came before the Prime Minister's public commitment to proceed.

There are, regrettably, many who simply not do believe that this latest dualling promise from the Government will ever be honoured (for example on BBC Politics North this weekend: [bit.ly/46KJfin](https://www.bbc.com/news/politics-64646464)), having heard similar pledges for years now. So I re-highlight, from my last letter, that we have spent at least £67m of the £293m committed for all the preparations, meaning digger work can begin rapidly, to secure both you and the Prime Minister a quick and easy win.

In that light, I am further deeply concerned by another point from National Highways that they are still working with your Department to finalise the investment plan for RIS3 and schemes within it, which will be published in 2024. The A1 in Northumberland—Morpeth to Ellingham has always been – and must remain – in RIS2, and I do hope that you can reassure voters across the North East of this!

These questions are at the forefront of constituents' and local councils' minds too, such as the below that I received:

- “1. Is funding for the project secure?”*
- 2. Have the Highways Agency and Northumberland County Council secured all the development consent orders necessary to proceed?”*
- 3. When will we see spades going into the ground, and when will the scheme be complete?”*

My constituents remain most grateful for your help with this important issue and, as ever, I am always happy to discuss this – and wider policy development – further, at your convenience.

[REDACTED]
The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

Member of Parliament for Berwick-upon-Tweed

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*I send a regular e-newsletter to keep residents informed of the work I do in Parliament and locally.
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