

As a resident of Barnard Castle, following the hearings in November/December 2022, and following the response to my original submission that I received from National Highways, I would like to make the following points. It seems to me that National Highways have not fully explained the reasons why they have chosen the Black Route at Rokeby and have totally discounted the Blue Route. Any questions raised in my submission and in any further questions put to them by various parties in the hearing, have been answered by references to documents and no public explanation. Whilst I am aware that the purpose of this process is to allow the Planning Inspectorate to decide on the application, I strongly believe that there is something wrong with a public process that is not understandable to the public. Much of the written response to my submission is basically circular arguments and obfuscation, and I find it totally unacceptable that a National body such as National Highways should be able to behave in this way. These decisions will affect our lives for years to come, and justifications set out by National Highways seem to be untenable "as they have so far been unable to explain them.