

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment further on the submissions of 5th October and 12th October, as an Interested Party. I write on behalf of the Thompsons, my parents, [REDACTED] residents of [REDACTED], who stand to be badly affected by this road scheme.

1. On the SoS invitation on 18th October to Interested Parties to comment on the responses of 5th October from Natural England and National Highways.

I/we are concerned about the exceedances from the dualling of the A66 noted by Natural England noted below in their letter of 5th October. There needs to be a more rigorous and detailed response from National Highways about how they propose to address this issue. This should also be made available to the public as soon as possible, with sufficient time in which to respond before the SoS decision.

Letter of 5th October, Natural England to SoS

*"Natural England understand that National Highways have been asked to provide the SoS with information regarding what speed limit reduction would result in a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity of the North Pennines Moors SAC. Natural England are in conversation with other road schemes about speed reductions as possible mitigation solutions but at this time cannot indicate what speed reduction (if any) would result in no adverse effect on the integrity of the site. As mentioned in our previous letters, the exceedances from the dualling of the A66 are significant and would need a significant reduction as well as ecological evidence to explain why there would be no adverse impact on integrity to the SAC.*

National Highways (5th October) state that any reduction in speed limit would be contrary to the objectives of the project. The plan to have a consistent speed limit of 70 mph (or even 60 mph) between Scotch Corner and Penrith will have deleterious effects on many residents, forced to live near a busy road with increased noise and risk of heavy traffic.

I also note the concerns expressed by the gipsy community about the safety of the proposed new site for Brough Hill Fair, and that this high speed limit is likely to pose serious issues of safety and noise.

2. I support TAN's call (letter to the Secretary of State, submitted on 12th October, and published), for the examination to be suspended so that the IROPI process can be properly undertaken.

3. I have seen Dr Andrew Boswell's letter of 19th October regarding the induced traffic effects of HGVs, which previously were not addressed by National Highways, and I support it.

Regards

Dr Mary Clare Martin