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D Anne-Marie

Thank you for your letter of 28 March about the proposed major road scheme on the A1 in Northumberland. I would like to reassure you that there are no reasons or plans to cancel the scheme to dual the A1 from Morpeth to Ellingham on the A1 in Northumberland.

Highways England is continuing to investigate options to improve the benefits and reduce the costs of all its schemes. This follows their normal processes of achieving value for money for the tax-payer, which is required for all government spending on infrastructure projects. As you helpfully state in your letter, the focus on efficiency of delivery and value for money in public works is fundamental for the Public Accounts Committee on which you sit.

I understand that Highways England are continuing to review the feedback from the public consultation held last year, to inform the preferred route announcement and development of the design. I can assure you that they will keep you updated with progress with the key components of this scheme.

Will best wish

CHRIS GRAYLING MP

Secretary of State for Transport