



Safe roads, reliable journeys, informed travellers

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Darren Millar AM
Committee Chair
Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Darren Millar,

INQUIRY INTO VALUE FOR MONEY OF MOTORWAY AND TRUNK ROAD INVESTMENT

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2015 addressed to Highways England.

Your letter has been seen by Graham Dalton, Chief Executive, and other members of his Executive team who read with interest the terms of your forthcoming inquiry. They have asked me to respond on their behalf.

Responding to the information you are seeking at this stage, the strategic case for changing the structure of the Highways Agency and providing greater certainty of funding was made by Alan Cook (then Chairman of the Highways Agency) in his report [‘A fresh start for the Strategic Road Network’](#) published in November 2011. Alan Cook’s approach was to improve service and efficiency - and his recommendations were put to the government for consideration.

These considerations were subsequently set out in [‘Investing in Britain’s Future’](#) published by HM Treasury in June 2013, which described the scale of plans for national infrastructure investment through to 2020/21. This report included confirmation that the Highways Agency would be transformed in to a publicly-owned corporation to deliver a substantial increase in efficient capital investment - with associated certainty and flexibility of funding.

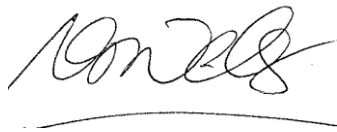
More detailed arguments as to the benefits of this change and capital investment plans were set out in ['Action for Roads'](#) published the following month by the Department for Transport.

After the Infrastructure Bill received Royal Assent earlier this year, the Minister of State for Transport announced on 12 March 2015 the formal appointment of Highways England as the strategic highways company responsible for England's strategic road network with effect from 1 April 2015.

Graham Dalton or Colin Matthews (Chairman) would be happy to attend an evidence session of the Committee's inquiry if you would find that helpful.

In the meantime, please contact me if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Wells', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Nick Wells

Directorate Services Team Leader
Network Delivery & Development