

P-05-838 Support the M4 Relief Road Black Route, Correspondence - Petitioner to Committee, 15.05.19



South Wales
Chamber of
Commerce
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To: National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee

Thank you for letting us know that the Committee will be considering our petition on 21 May, calling for the M4 Relief Road around Newport to be built, and for making us aware of the Written Statement by the First Minister on the timetable for a decision on the matter.

We are pleased that the Welsh Government have finally declared when they will be announcing their decision. Not knowing what is going to happen has added to the uncertainty that many businesses are feeling at the moment. Without a clear way forward businesses don't know whether their preparations to supply the project are worthwhile, whether they need to upskill the potential workforce for the project, and whether there is an end in sight to the daily congestion, accidents and traffic jams along that stretch of road.

We would therefore ask for the Committee's support, as a committee and as individual Assembly Members, to keep pressure on the Welsh Government to stick to the timetable that has been set out.

If it is a positive decision the business community in South Wales would value your support in getting the Welsh Government to set out a clear schedule for delivering the project.

A negative decision would however damage the confidence of those doing business in South Wales. The problems around the Brynglas Tunnels are there, have been there for decades and will not disappear of their own accord. Welsh businesses need a solution to the problem. If the Welsh Government is not going to build the M4 Relief Road it needs set out what it is going to do to solve the congestion on the M4 around Newport. What it is actually going to deliver and not an aspirational idea of something it may be able to do at some point in the future, possibly if the wind is blowing in the right direction.

Thank you for your time in considering the petition. Business people from across South Wales are relying on a solution to the substandard transport network around Newport for the success of their businesses, and the people who work for those businesses are relying on them for an income to provide for their families.

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