

Correspondence from the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

Introduction

1. The Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee has written to the Bureau following the publication of its report on its inquiry into the A9 Dualling Programme. The paper is attached in Annexe.
2. The letter draws the Bureau's attention to the Committee's recommendation that a dedicated Parliamentary committee be established to provide oversight on major infrastructure projects being pursued by the Scottish Government, specifically where the project is likely to run over multiple parliamentary sessions.

Decision

3. The Bureau is invited to note the correspondence and agree to return to the matter following a debate on the Committee's report.

Parliamentary business Team
November 2024

ANNEXE

Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer
Chair – Parliamentary Bureau

1 November 2024

Dear Presiding Officer

Inquiry into A9 Dualling Programme

I am writing to update you on the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee's Inquiry into the A9 Dualling Programme.

As you may be aware, the Committee has today published [its report on the inquiry](#), which explored the circumstances leading to the Scottish Government's commitment to dual the A9 between Perth and Inverness becoming unachievable.

The Committee has concluded that there was no single issue or incident which led to the 2025 target becoming unachievable, and has set out a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring there is no repetition of this situation for the remainder for the A9 Dualling Programme, and on major infrastructure projects of a similar scale.

In particular, the Committee would draw the Bureau's attention to the recommendation that a dedicated Parliamentary committee be established to provide oversight on major infrastructure projects being pursued by the Scottish Government, specifically where the project is likely to run over multiple parliamentary sessions (para.94). It is the Committee's view that new committee focused on scrutiny of the A9 Dualling Programme should be established to further embed the expertise and institutional knowledge of Members on this subject and ensure that the Scottish Government is properly held to account on its commitment to complete the dualling work by 2035. The Committee invites the Parliamentary Bureau to consider how this can be achieved, both for the remainder of this parliamentary session, and in future parliaments.

It is the Committee's intention to seek a Chamber debate on its report, once the Scottish Government response has been received. The Committee also looks forward to engaging with the Bureau on the specific recommendation set out above.

Yours sincerely,

Jackson Carlaw MSP
Convener