



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Presiding Officer

Edward Mountain
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

By email

6 February 2025

Dear Convener,

The Bureau has considered a letter from the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee regarding its recent report on its Inquiry into the A9 Dualling Programme. I attach the letter below.

Following this discussion, and before taking a final decision, the Bureau agreed to write to you to seek your Committee's view.

The Committee's debate on its report took place on 16 January and the Parliament agreed the following motion:-

That the Parliament notes the conclusions and recommendations of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee's 2nd Report, 2024 (Session 6), Inquiry into the A9 Dualling Programme (SP Paper 669), including the recommendation that a dedicated committee should be established to provide oversight and maintain momentum on scrutiny of long-running, multi-session infrastructure projects, such as the A9 dualling programme.

Following this, the CPPP Committee wrote to the Bureau to invite it to consider the establishment of a new Committee, as soon as possible, focused on the A9 in the current session.

Given your Committee's remit for transport, and the CPPP Committee's request being focussed on the A9, we felt it important that your views be taken into consideration before taking a final decision.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer

Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer
Chair – Parliamentary Bureau

23 January 2025

Dear Presiding Officer

Inquiry into A9 Dualling Programme

Thank you for your letter dated 9 December 2024, confirming that the Parliamentary Bureau has noted the contents of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee's report on its Inquiry into the A9 Dualling Programme.

At our meeting on 22 January 2025, the Committee took the opportunity to reflect on the contributions made during the Committee-led debate on our inquiry report, and agreed to write to the Bureau to restate our 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.

Members across the Chamber welcomed the thoroughness and robustness of the Committee's work on this inquiry, highlighting the potential benefits of parliamentary scrutiny not just in examining past issues, but for the role it can play in building resilience and maintaining momentum on infrastructure projects of a similar scale. It remains the Committee's view that a new committee focussed on scrutiny of the A9 Dualling Programme would provide a valuable opportunity to further embed the expertise and institutional knowledge of Members on this subject, while helping to generate momentum to deliver this programme within existing timescales and budgets, and ensure that, should the Scottish Government fail in its commitment, a future committee of Parliament does not find itself having to undertake a similar inquiry in 10years time.

The Committee also noted the comments of the Convener of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, and the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, on the limited time and capacity available to the NZET Committee to undertake scrutiny on this important matter given its extensive remit and associated work programme. To help ensure that the Parliament can continue to robustly scrutinise the progress of the A9 dualling programme, the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee invite the Bureau to consider the establishment of a new committee, as soon as possible, focused on the A9 in the current session.

The Committee looks forward to the outcome of the Bureau's consideration of this recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

Jackson Carlaw MSP, Convener