



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

April 2025

Dear Edward

Inquiry into the A9 Dualling Programme

As you will be aware, the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions (CPPP) Committee's report on our Inquiry into the A9 Dualling Programme included a recommendation for the establishment of a dedicated parliamentary committee 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.

The CPPP Committee has now received a response from the Bureau stating that it is not minded to establish an A9 committee at this point in the parliamentary session.

We note your own correspondence with the Bureau on this matter, particularly your Committee's concerns about breadth of the NZET remit and its impact on the time available to examine transport and associated major infrastructure projects in detail.

As you know, this was also a point the CPPP Committee made in our report.

While we are, of course, disappointed that that Bureau did not accept our recommendation for a committee to be established to scrutinise progress on the A9, we remain clear that parliamentary scrutiny has a vital role to play in maintaining momentum on dualling the A9 and ensuring transparency. With a decision still to be confirmed on how the remainder of the dualling programme will be funded, the CPPP Committee believes it is vital that regular and robust scrutiny continues on this major infrastructure project throughout the remainder of the current parliamentary session, and indeed into the next session.

We welcome your commitment that the NZET Committee will use whatever opportunity it can to carry on this scrutiny, with the regular reports on A9 progress provided by the Scottish Government being one such opportunity to do so. It is the CPPP Committee's view that the inquiry, specifically the forthright evidence from the Civil Engineering Contractors Association, which led to Transport Scotland amending its approach to procurement contracts and demonstrates the importance of open and transparent parliamentary scrutiny of major infrastructure projects.

Contact: Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email petitions.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

Given the importance and public interest in the A9 dualling programme, the CPPP Committee appreciates your offer to reciprocate the Reporter arrangement to help ensure continuity and sharing of institutional memory in the scrutiny of progress to dual the A9 within the revised timetable the Scottish Government has set out. As we near the end of the current parliamentary session, the CPPP Committee recognises the pressures on committee business and would support further opportunities to continue a collaborative approach between the CPPP and NZET Committees on this important matter.

We would be grateful if you could keep the CPPP Committee updated of NZET Committee work in respect of the A9 Dualling Programme.

On behalf of the CPPP Committee, thank you once again for the contribution you have made to scrutiny of the A9 Dualling Programme to date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Carlaw', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jackson Carlaw MSP
Convener
Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee