



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Presiding Officer

Jackson Carlaw MSP
Convener

19 March 2025

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter of 23 January in which you invited the Bureau to consider the establishment of a new committee, as soon as possible, focused on the A9 in the current session.

In order to inform its consideration of your request, the Bureau sought the view of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport (NZET) Committee given its existing remit. In its response, the NZET Committee indicated that it had welcomed your Committee's scrutiny during a period when it was very busy with other work. However, it also indicated that it would not support setting up an A9 Committee over the remainder of this session due to the potential risk of either "taking an inconsistent approach in how the Parliament keeps watch over capital projects or, alternatively, setting a precedent that would be difficult to sustain." The NZET Committee also highlighted what it perceived to be an important underlying issue: namely the lack of a specific committee in the current parliamentary session to consider transport and associated infrastructure problems.

While the Bureau recognises the challenges that have arisen this session due to the absence of a specific committee focused solely on transport and associated major infrastructure projects, it is not minded to establish an A9 Committee at this point in the session. The Bureau considers that the NZET Committee has built up expertise in this area and establishing a new committee would not be consistent with past scrutiny of capital projects.¹

In addition, the Bureau has received assurances from the NZET Committee that it plans to build on the valuable work on the A9 started by the CPPP Committee, including the scrutiny of the regular reports on A9 progress that the Scottish Government has now committed to provide.

We note that an NZET Committee Member acted as reporter during your inquiry and would encourage both committees to continue to share their institutional memory on this matter over the remainder of this session.

¹ Sharon Dowey MSP recorded her dissent from this paragraph

Thank you for writing to me.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer