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2 March 2004

Dear Doctor

A57/A628 MOTTRAM - TINTWISTLE BY PASS

Thank you for your e-mail of 15th February 2004 sent to my colleague Mr Stockton in which you raised concern about the length of time that it was going to take to reach the construction and eventually road opening stages for the Mottram -Tintwistle By pass scheme.

We are currently preparing contract documents for a Design and Build contract known as an ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) in accordance with Highways Agency Policy.

We expect to invite tenders at the end of March 2004 and award the contract at the end of August 2004 whereas normal ECI has a 12-month period between award and the Publication of Draft Orders. We are expecting to reduce this in this case to 8 months in view of the considerable amount of work already done.

Publication of Draft Orders under the Highways Act and a Compulsory Purchase Order is a Statutory Process necessary on all TPI (Targeted Programme Of Improvements) schemes to which objections can be lodged. A Public Inquiry is virtually certain on a scheme such as Mottram with such environmental issues and sensitivities related to the National Park. A Public Inquiry has been allowed for in the Programme and will in itself add about 12 months to the process. The timescales are fixed by the Statutory Procedures and allow for the Inspector to report and the Secretary Of State to make a decision. Mott MacDonald who are the consultant engineers on this project are devoting more resources than would be the norm for a project of this size mainly because of the environmental issues and the complexity of the traffic modelling work that has to look at the Public Transport solutions as well as road building solutions to the problem.

The ECI Contractor will be incentivised to deliver the scheme quickly and cost effectively as he will be anxious to reach construction stage as soon as he possibly can to realise his benefits from the contract.

I hope that this answers the points that you have raised but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Carl Stockton.

Yours sincerely



John Hornagold

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