

Petitioner submission of 28 June 2022

PE1916/D: Request a public inquiry into the management of the Rest and Be Thankful project

While we are very grateful that the Committee have decided to continue our petition, we are very concerned regarding the [recent announcement by the Scottish Government](#) indicating that there could be further slippage to strategic transport projects.

We feel, our communities have been kept in the dark for long enough and we demand that a definitive timescale is identified to end once and for all the unacceptable Rest and Be Thankful saga.

In response to [Transport Scotland's submission](#) of 16 February, we do not agree that a public inquiry into the costs of the mitigation measures at the Rest and Be Thankful cannot be run in parallel with the ongoing attempts to find a permanent solution to this situation. To say that a public inquiry will delay any permanent solution is, in our view, totally unacceptable and we feel that Transport Scotland are using this an excuse to avoid proper public scrutiny on this project. There must be, in our opinion, some organisation held accountable for the mitigation measures which were costed at £2-3 million in 2012 and now exceed £100 million with no permanent solution in sight.

The question which requires to be answered is who is responsible for this fiasco, something we feel strongly should be the subject of a public inquiry.

Cllr Douglas Philand and Cllr Donald Kelly