

***promoting quality public transport.....***

Richard Coates  
Head of Highways Monitor Development  
Office of Rail and Road,  
3rd Floor, One Kemble Street,  
London W2B 4AN

18<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear Richard,

**Monitoring Highways England Consultation**

TravelWatch NorthWest is an independent Community Interest Company which aims to champion and represent the views of public transport passengers in NW England. As far as the Strategic Road Network is concerned our interest is therefore with public transport users of the network. This would principally be bus and coach services, including community transport and rail replacement road services, but we are supportive of the needs of taxi and private hire car users.

To this end we welcome ORR's role in monitoring the network and seeking to make it easier to use.

At this stage we generally support the views set out in the document on the direction and development of the new highways monitoring role of the ORR.

There is one specific aspect I have been asked to point out. This is probably most closely related to question 5 and concerns the effect of road works/closures on not just regular road users but also on rail passengers displaced by rail disruption onto the Strategic Road Network. For example one of our Directors has pointed to a recent situation where a York to Scarborough rail replacement road service could not use the A64 because that road was closed for maintenance. The rail replacement road journey had to be made via a longer and slower route through Pickering. Blatantly, there should be co-ordination between road and rail closures in these circumstances to avoid closing a major road and parallel railway for maintenance at the same time. Setting up the Office of Road and Rail presents an ideal opportunity to bring this about.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Yours sincerely

*John A Moorhouse*

John Moorhouse Company Secretary