



Department for **Transport**

**From Mike Penning MP, Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State**

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Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 14 June to Justine Greening concerning a petition received by the National Assembly of Wales, calling for a bypass of the villages of Pant and Llanymynech, which straddle the English-Welsh border. I am replying as Minister responsible for the strategic roads in England.

The relative priority of the A483 Pant to Llanymynech Bypass was considered by the West Midlands Regional Transport Board as part of the previous Government's Regional Funding Allocation advice process in 2006.

The West Midlands Regional Transport Board advised the Government at the time that the proposal was a low priority due to its low cost benefit score and the modest contributions it was thought to make towards economic development and housing in the Region.

Following this decision, the Highways Agency completed a detailed review of the proposal to assess whether its cost could be reduced whilst maintaining a substantial proportion of its benefits. This study concluded that possible smaller scale solutions along this route would still offer poor value for money, and as such a decision was taken not to develop the proposals further.

In October 2010, the Department for Transport set out the outcomes of this Government's 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, publishing details of its investment decisions for major road projects on the strategic road network.

As proposals for an A483 Pant to Llanymynech Bypass had not been prioritised previously, the Department did not have a scheme to consider as part of the Spending Review, and there are therefore no plans to develop such a proposal at this time.

In preparing for future investment decisions, the Department will be considering the current and future forecast performance of the strategic road network, to identify and prioritise the scale of identified problems. It is also committed to work with regional and local stakeholders to ensure it considers their views on the transport problems faced, and the range of potential options for addressing them.

I would be happy to discuss the issues with the Welsh Government Minister for Local Government and Communities; officials in my Department and the Highways Agency are also willing to discuss the situation with their Welsh Government counterparts.

I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales, and to the Clerk to the Petitions Committee as requested.

*Regards
WE*

MIKE PENNING