

Dr Lynn Sloman MBE
Chair, Roads Review Panel
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14 March 2023

Dear Member of the Senedd,

ROADS REVIEW PANEL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

I am writing to you following the recent debate about the Roads Review in the Senedd, to clarify how the Roads Review Panel engaged with stakeholders during the course of our work.

The motion for the Senedd debate on 8 March 2023 asserted that there was a *“lack of engagement by the Roads Review Panel with the public, elected representatives, local authorities, businesses and the third sector and others”*.

As the Minister stated in the debate, there was in fact considerable engagement during the Roads Review. Engagement was seen by the Panel as an important way of informing our work. We aimed for our engagement to be consistent with the Sustainable Development Principle of “involvement” as defined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

The main engagement activities undertaken during the course of the Review are described in the table appended to this letter. They included over 30 meetings with key stakeholder groups. Through workshops and other meetings, we engaged with 14 local authorities and 25 organisations representing business, tourism, freight and logistics sectors; the third sector; professional institutions; and young people.

It has been suggested that the Panel should have consulted the public. However, the Roads Review was a technical exercise, reviewing whether schemes were consistent with Government policy that had been agreed after the schemes were initiated. The policy documents against which the Panel reviewed the schemes, in particular the Wales Transport Strategy, had already been the subject of thorough consultation by Welsh Government.

Where road schemes had previously been the subject of stakeholder engagement and public consultation, the Panel took account of the findings from these consultation and engagement activities in our own scheme assessments. We took the view that this was better than re-consulting on the same issues.

A Panel recommendation not to proceed with a particular scheme did not necessarily mean that the Panel considered there was no problem to be tackled. Where we concluded that a scheme was not aligned with the policies set out in the Wales Transport Strategy, Net Zero Wales and the Programme for Government, we also considered whether the evidence from stakeholders and previous public consultations

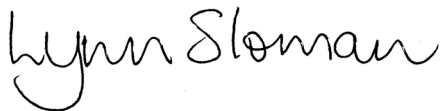
showed that there was a “case for change” – that is, a case for an intervention to solve a local transport problem. In these instances, our recommendations make clear that further work would be appropriate. This might still involve changes to the road infrastructure.

While the Panel would readily acknowledge that there is always more that can be done to involve stakeholders, my view as Chair is that the Panel’s approach was proportionate to the task we undertook. It gave us sufficient understanding to make informed judgements about the alignment of schemes with the Wales Transport Strategy, Net Zero Wales and the Programme for Government, and to identify instances where a local transport problem required further work to identify an appropriate solution.

If you would like to discuss this further, I would be happy to meet you.

This letter will be published on the Roads Review Panel web-page at www.gov.wales/roads-review-panel.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lynn Sloman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Lynn Sloman MBE
Chair, Roads Review Panel

APPENDIX

ROADS REVIEW PANEL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

1	Stakeholders contacted via email at the start of the Review, to explain our proposed approach to engagement and ensure that stakeholders knew how to contact the Panel.	November 2021
2	Three meetings with stakeholder groups to seek their views about how the Panel could best engage with them. These meetings were with: • Welsh LGA and local authority ‘regional lead’ transport officers; • business organisations; • the third sector.	January 2022
3	Publication of Initial Report: section 3.4 provided contact details for the Roads Review Panel, and stated that <i>“the Panel Chair and Secretariat are able to meet interested parties such as local authorities and wider stakeholders for transport, culture, social, economic, environment and national bodies to explain our approach and discuss the overall Review”</i> .	February 2022
4	Three workshops with local government officers , covering: • Mid Wales; • South-West and North Wales; • South-East Wales. Following discussion with the Welsh LGA about the best way to involve local government, invitations to these workshops were sent to ‘regional lead’ transport officers, who identified and invited relevant local authority officers from their region. If local authorities were unable to send a representative, they were invited to attend a different workshop on another day, so that the Panel could hear their views. Nine local authorities took up the Panel’s invitation, as listed in Chapter 4 of the Panel’s Final Report.	March 2022
5	Ten meetings between the Panel and the relevant local authority to inform the Panel’s understanding of local authority-led schemes. These included meetings with five local authorities that did not attend the workshops described in row 4 above.	Various dates between September 2021 and May 2022

6	Four on-line workshops with representatives of other stakeholder groups: • business, tourism, freight and logistics sectors; • the third sector; • professional institutions; • young people. The 25 organisations / groups (excluding local authorities) that took up the Panel's invitation to attend these workshops are listed in Chapter 4 of the Panel's Final Report.	March – May 2022
7	Nine meetings with the Trunk Road Agents to discuss individual trunk road schemes. In some straightforward cases, no meeting with the Trunk Road Agent was necessary and minor points were clarified through correspondence.	Various dates between November 2021 and April 2022
8	One meeting with the Burns Delivery Unit.	March 2022
9	Meetings with other stakeholders in relation to individual schemes, when these were requested. Throughout the process we honoured as many meeting requests as possible. In addition, all correspondence from stakeholders in relation to individual schemes was seen and considered by the Panel.	Various dates between September 2021 and May 2022