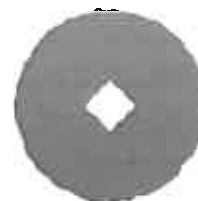


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**PEAK
DISTRICT
NATIONAL
PARK**

Lord Adonis
Interim Chair
National Infrastructure Commission
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Your ref:

Our ref: EF / SF

Date: 8 January 2016

By email - northernevidence@Infrastructure-Commission.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Lord Adonis

Re: National Infrastructure Commission: Future Investment in the North's Transport Infrastructure

I am writing in response to your call for evidence on the National Infrastructure Commission, and more specifically, future investment in the north's transport infrastructure.

This response is made in the context of the two statutory purposes of the Peak District National Park Authority, as set out in the Environment Act (1995), namely;

- Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area, and
- Promoting opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

We recognise the importance of improving transport connections across the north, including between cities east to west across the Pennines, and welcome this strategic discussion by the National Infrastructure Commission. We raise two key strategic issues for the Commission to consider.

Firstly, the Peak District National Park is a world-class, protected landscape sitting at the heart of the country and the northern part of the Peak District National Park is within the Pennines. The Peak District National Park has an important role in supporting the health and well-being of the nation and brings its own economic value to the nation. We would expect any investment in transport infrastructure to work with this beautiful and unique landscape so it is protected now and in the future; this will ensure any work is in line with national and local policy. We assume infrastructure improvements would be outside the National Park and take account of any impact it may have on the setting of the National Park.



Secondly, we welcome the intention of the Commission to engage closely with government, both local and national, as the study progresses. Given that transport improvements east to west across the Pennines are likely to have implications for the Peak District National Park, the Authority is a key organisation for the Commission team to actively engage with. I am keen the Authority engages strategically and early with partners to help prioritise options that deliver an enhanced transport infrastructure and sustains a world class landscape. This will ensure time and resources are directed towards transport improvements that deliver for the nation as a whole.

We believe that it would be useful to discuss the issues raised and look forward to seeing the next steps of the Commission's work and meeting with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fowler', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sarah Fowler
Chief Executive

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CC Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport
Cllr Mrs Lesley Roberts, Chair of Peak District National Park Authority