

Dear Sirs,

I have the following comments on your Consultation Document.

Firstly, I consider that it is entirely appropriate that ORR's mandate is extended to cover strategic highways. As you note, there are differences versus your role w.r.t. the railways, however there are also many similarities and an equivalent requirement for independent monitoring.

One of the elements of your licence is "Ensure the improvement, enhancement and long term development of the network". To this end the following extensions of your mandate would assist in achieving this. -

* ORR should have the opportunity to assess whether the existing scope of the Strategic Highways Network is correct. I.e. to provide a view as to whether all the roads currently in the network should remain or not. Whether certain roads not currently in the Network should be included. Whether new strategic roads are needed. Naturally this would need to be revisited over time.

* Mandate of ORR should be extended to include strategic roads in Scotland and Wales (as per coverage for railways). It is evident that many of the strategic roads in Scotland and (especially) Wales are in fact those which connect to England and it is therefore somewhat perverse that your mandate does not cover the entirety of such links. Clearly this would require agreement and funding from the devolved governments of the two countries, but the ORR should be better able to provide such versus separate organisations.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Fox