

**PE1657/T**

Petitioner (PE1610) submission of 12 November 2020

Since the last time petition PE1610 was heard, there has been a reformation of the North Channel Partnership to promote the cause of road upgrades in SW Scotland from the ferry ports. This group includes relevant councils from Scotland and Northern Ireland, Stena and P&O, pressure groups and others. I believe there may also be support from the Northern Ireland Executive. Since the last hearing there has been no progress or improvements towards upgrading the A75, either physically or in proposals. In the SW Transport Report, which feeds into STPR2, it was outlined that the positives of a dual carriageway A75 outweighed the negatives, however it was discounted from the projects to go forward for further consultation on the grounds of cost, a consideration that doesn't seem to have figured in other major road projects elsewhere.

With a no deal Brexit looming the Cairnryan ports and their connected transport infrastructure potentially face a big increase in traffic due to the expected Northern Irish border controls, this at a time when they are barely fit for current traffic.

I look forward to the First Minister's reply to the commission and also to the next hearing of PE1610 before the committee.