

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit Department for Transport Great Minster House
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London, SW1P 4DR
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Dear Sir/Madam

The Proposed Northumberland Line Order

I am writing to express support for the application by Northumberland County Council for the above-mentioned Order.

The improved connectivity provided by the Northumberland Line will bring social and economic benefits to residents, commuters, visitors and businesses both in Northumberland and the wider region. In this respect it should also be extended to Newbiggin, North Blyth and Ellington.

In particular, the scheme will:

- * improve access from towns such as Ashington and Blyth to employment hubs like Newcastle, as well as opening up new opportunities for education and travel;
- * provide a real incentive for potential employers to relocate to and invest in the area;
- * provide vital infrastructure to help deliver the region's aspirations for population and economic growth;
- * help to attract visitors and improve local tourism;
- * enhance public transport connectivity within and beyond the region;
- * help to reduce congestion and improve air quality on key corridors by moving people away from car travel and onto public transport; and
- * support the delivery of significant growth in sectors such as renewable energy, offshore oil and gas and engineering.

The proposed Northumberland Line Order is vital to secure the delivery of the scheme and we hope the Secretary of State will make the Order to enable the scheme to go ahead as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Wright

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