# STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TITLE** | **M4 Corridor around Newport Project – Public Inquiry Update** |
| **DATE** | **25 April 2018** |
| **BY** | **Ken Skates, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport** |

This Written Statement provides an update on the status of the M4 Corridor around Newport Project, which proposes a new section of motorway south of Newport, reclassification of the existing M4 over this area and complementary measures to promote cycling, walking and access to public transport.

The Public Inquiry into the Scheme has now closed.

Detailed evidence has been heard, both for and against the proposals, over 83 sitting days. Two independent inspectors have openly and robustly scrutinised whether the Scheme is the long-term, sustainable solution to the problems on this gateway. As well as the scope and impacts of the Scheme, suggested alternatives have been thoroughly assessed including the ‘blue-route’ suggestion of works to existing roads in Newport.

I would like to thank all those involved in the Inquiry, ensuring that the Inspectors’ report will be informed by the best possible evidence.

Once we receive the Inspectors’ report, the Welsh Ministers must complete the statutory process. The next steps will be announced, alongside publication of the Inspectors’ report for all to see.

In recognition of the importance of this matter to the whole of Wales, we have committed to a debate in Government time in the Assembly before a final decision is made by the Welsh Ministers whether to enter into contracts for construction.