



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**“Just say no!” – CALM makes its case to all AMs**

As the M4 Public Inquiry continues, CALM – the Campaign Against the Levels Motorway – has written to all AMs, providing them with a formal statement detailing the arguments against the M4 Black Route.

Catherine Linstrum, CALM chair, explains *“This road will encourage much more traffic onto all our roads, increasing congestion at bottlenecks throughout South Wales. There are much better ways to stimulate the Welsh economy and to provide sustainable transport for all. We are calling on AMs to think again on this out-dated transport ‘solution’ which would fail to deliver on all its promises.”*

Catherine continues *“The cost is certainly going to exceed £1.5bn. About £2 billion is more likely. That’s two thousand million pounds of our money to bypass an existing motorway. The Government’s proposal is at complete odds with the Assembly’s core policies on transport, sustainable development and the well-being of future generations. There are so many better ways to spend that money across Wales.”*

Catherine concludes *“There is no case for this motorway. You couldn’t justify it if it was running through a barren strip of no-man’s land, but the fact that it would slice through the Gwent Levels – the most precious wetland landscape in Wales – makes this project even more of a catastrophic mistake.”*

The CALM statement runs to a well-referenced seven pages, but this summary is a fraction of the evidence against the Black Route that has been presented by the Welsh Government at the Public Inquiry. The CALM statement has eight main points:

1. Road building does not solve congestion – it shifts the problem.
2. New roads do not necessarily lead to economic development.
3. Government modelling and costings are flawed.
4. Urban transport is changing.
5. The vast cost will limit government expenditure across Wales for many years.
6. Alternatives have not been considered evenly or symmetrically.
7. Carbon emissions need to be reduced and air quality improved.
8. The scheme has an unacceptable impact on the environment and our cultural heritage.

– Ends –

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## Notes to editors

- 1 The CALM statement, as issued to all AMs is attached.
- 2 For comment, please contact Catherine Linstrum, Chair, CALM on:
  - [07977 938929](tel:07977938929)
  - [catherinelinstrum@me.com](mailto:catherinelinstrum@me.com)
- 3 CALM (the Campaign Against the Levels Motorway) is an alliance of community groups, environmental organisations and individuals all determined to save the Gwent Levels and find better solutions to travel needs in south-east Wales.

