

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN SUPPORT OF THE A303 OPTION BEFORE THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION**

**GOSW**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
	Cornwall County Council
	South Hams District council
	Leader of South Hams District Council
	South Hams District Council
	Exeter City Council
	Devon County Council
	Devon County Council
	West Devon Borough Council
	West Devon Borough Council
	Teignbridge District Council
	South West Regional Assembly
	Federation of Small Businesses
	Taunton Deane Economic Partnership
	Ashill, Somerset
	Taunton, Somerset
	Taunton, Somerset
	Taunton, Somerset
	aol.com
	St Austell, Cornwall
	Taunton, Somerset
	Honiton, Devon

**HA**

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Southdown Salcombe Hill Top	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road locally called “Death Valley” due to number of accidents.</li> <li>• Devon needs another dual carriageway from the east.</li> <li>• “Outcome will probably be determined by the Conservationists who do not represent the majority of road users”.</li> <li>• Points out two dangerous bends that need to be dealt with regardless to what happens with the A358.</li> </ul>
Valley Road Honiton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous enquiry backed improvements to A303.</li> <li>• Various properties were bought and demolished.</li> <li>• Scheme placed under review with new incoming government.</li> <li>• Wants whole road from M3 to Penzance dualled in a straight line.</li> <li>• 3 hours to drive home in the summer journey should have taken an hour.</li> </ul>
Plymouth Manufacturers Group (PMG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to David Jamieson enclosing a submission with points for both options.</li> <li>• Closing Summary states A303/A30 option meets many of the stated criteria of Government and the RDA.</li> <li>• The PMG fully recognises the environmental importance of the Blackdown Hill AONB, but believes with sensitivity in the route planning any impact can be minimised.</li> </ul>

## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED *AGAINST* THE A303 OPTION AND *BEFORE* THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION**

### **GOSW**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
	English Nature
	Transport 2000
	btopenworld.com
	London
	Hanging Langford, Wiltshire
	Hanging Langford, Wiltshire
	Dorset

### **HA**

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Honiton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dismay at the plan through the Blackdown Hills AONB.</li> <li>• Scheme would be ruinous to quality of life.</li> <li>• What Compensation can they expect?</li> </ul>
Honiton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental damage of a AONB.</li> <li>• Does not want more people coming to the area.</li> <li>• Would like to see improvements in Rail links instead of roads.</li> </ul>
Friends of the Earth 26-28 Underwood St London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite sent to Alistair Darling to come to area and view Blackdown Hills before decision is made on route option.</li> <li>• Hugely environmentally damaging through an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</li> <li>• Would not support 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic road route but if a route is created would support A358 option.</li> </ul>

## CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BEFORE THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION AND SUPPORTING THE A358 OPTION

NAME	ORGANISATION
	Portland Port
	Taunton, Somerset

## CORRESPONDENCE FROM LOCAL MP'S BEFORE THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION

### HA

ORGANISATION	COMMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter concerning constituent Mr.</li> <li>• Mr is pleased to see the Government is moving in right direction with improvements to the A303</li> <li>• Whole road must be dualled from M3 to the M5 not sections. Nothing less would be acceptable</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various correspondence regarding the Agency's "Bespoke Report"</li> <li>• The Report handling was raised in the House cause the minister some discomfort</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjournment debate 28 January 5.30pm</li> <li>• The A373 and the junction at Honiton and Culumpton on the M5</li> <li>• A303 and SWARMMS and the delay re the Regional Assembly</li> <li>• The Funding formula for roads</li> <li>• <b>PQ</b> re determinations of environmental issues considered by the Public Inquiry into the Honiton/Ilminster road improvement.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congratulating ??????? for obtaining this debate (in the House 28/01/04)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pointed out he is constantly being lobbied by the Federation of East Devon Chambers for road improvements</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enclosing a letter from Mr ????? &amp; Miss ????? who are writing to support dualling of A30/A303</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taunton PUA status need to increase M5 J25 Capacity. Pro A358</li> <li>Letter on file to apologise for not keeping Mr ???? informed with the “Bespoke Report”</li> <li>Was asking for David Jamieson to receive a non party delegation to discuss</li> <li>When will a decision be made on A358/A303</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter issued to Secretary of State in support of dualling the A30/A303 route (22/01/03 &amp; 25/06/03)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various issues raised re A303&amp;A358 full Hansard document 17/12/02</li> <li>Letter sent to David Jamieson on behalf of Mr ?????? who is frustrated that it has taken so long to upgrade A303. Believes also A358 should be dualed</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter to David Jamison supporting the campaign for the upgrading of the A358</li> <li>Would like a delegation to visit Mr Jamieson to discuss issues</li> </ul>

## CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN SUPPORT OF THE DUALLING OF THE A303 AFTER THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MADE ITS RECOMMENDATION

**GOSW & HA (Note similar letters sent to both office's with the same viewpoint have not been reported separately)**

ORGANISATION	COMMENTS
ADAG A303/A30 Dualling Action Group Honiton, Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support SWRA recommendation (all ADAG members live in the Blackdown Hills).</li> <li>• Would improve road safety and improvements to access (farm vehicles).</li> <li>• The main 'trunk road' for the south west.</li> </ul>
Devon & Cornwall Business Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will form a second high quality strategic road corridor into the south west Peninsula</li> <li>• Dualling a regional and national priority.</li> <li>• Quoting article in the Guardian 12 June that said "A coalition of 7 environmental groups this week wrote to Mr Darling to attack it" (the A303/A30 Option)</li> <li>• Enclosed a coalition of 77 authorities and bodies supporting the A303/A30 option.</li> <li>• States large proportion to those who voted were Taunton based and stated in their speeches that the still supported the A303/A30 option.</li> <li>• States region has taken serious "knock" from rejection of Port at Southampton (Dibden).</li> </ul>
Plymouth Manufacturer's group Yelverton Plymouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies are under fierce competition from low labour costs countries in Eastern Europe. Reduced transport costs from the A303 option will help their competitiveness.</li> </ul>
Chief Executive of Exeter City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear benefits in terms of time-savings, fuel and CO<sub>2</sub> emission savings.</li> <li>• Wider economic benefits to Devon and Cornwall Economy.</li> </ul>
Teignbridge District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential to help address the poor economic performance of the far South West of the region.</li> </ul>
East Devon District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will provide a strategic route for visitors and businesses.</li> <li>• Wealth creation. Congestion undermines business confidence and constrains the pace of economic growth.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will save lives as upgraded route will remove sharp bends and steep gradients. There have been 17 fatal accidents on the A30/A303 since Jan 1997.</li> <li>• Local communities of Blackdown Hills, including almost all local parishes are in favour of dualling as would be beneficial to life and work in their communities. Continuing conflict between local and long distance traffic on A303 is unacceptable.</li> </ul>
South Hams District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved prosperity and regeneration of Devon and Cornwall rely heavily on improved infrastructure and communications. A303 is only alternative strategic corridor capable of taking significant arterial capacity.</li> <li>• It is a shorter route from the M3 to Exeter resulting in reduced road haulage costs and reduced greenhouse emissions.</li> </ul>
Devon County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not believe route is damaging and were disappointed that the beneficial impact of mitigation measures was not reflected in the HA assessment.</li> <li>• Route directly follows regional policy, providing a direct route to the area of expansion east of Exeter, which includes a strategic employment site and an expanding regional airport</li> </ul>
South West Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism is vital to the economy of Devon and Cornwall, accounting for 16% and 29% of employment, respectively.</li> <li>• Dualling A303 vital for us to continue to attract visitors throughout the year.</li> <li>• Research indicates that perception of poor access to region is one of major historic constraints to this sector.</li> </ul>
Taunton, Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dualling would allow road users to this environmentally sensitive area. Uses eg of US National Parks.</li> <li>• A303 a shorter route thus saving £55 million in fuel.</li> <li>• Provides a high capacity alternative route to the south west.</li> <li>• Will save 34 more accidents a year.</li> </ul>
SWRDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support SWRA recommendation</li> <li>• Supported by the business community in the south west</li> <li>• Satisfies the agreed objective to provide a second strategic route between London and the far South West</li> <li>• Will reduce congestion around M4/M5 around Bristol</li> <li>• Will contribute towards raising business productivity and will benefit tourist industry in Devon and Cornwall</li> <li>• Complements other schemes eg. HA Targeted Programme of Improvements at Stonehenge, Bodmin to Indian Queens</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will reduce severance along the route and is supported by the local communities</li> </ul>
Taunton Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The enhancement of the A303 benefits the area it passes through.</li> <li>• Access to rest of the country by the businesses and citizens would be badly affected by failing to upgrade A303.</li> <li>• ??????? have selfish desire to ensure Taunton becomes the centre of the region, although little evidence over past 30 years that any real effort has been made to attract commercial businesses.</li> </ul>
Ashcombe Adventure centre Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A303 provides greatest cost benefit and least long-term environmental damage.</li> </ul>
Heart of Devon Enterprise Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A303 provides greatest cost benefit and least long-term environmental damage.</li> </ul>
Handle with Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will make it easier to visit clients who are based in south east region.</li> </ul>
Exeter Airport Business Park Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A303 provides greatest cost benefit and least long-term environmental damage.</li> </ul>
Stratton and Holborow Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support SWRA decision. Any further delays will only serve to damage the economy of the south west particularly at a local level.</li> </ul>
, Exeter and Heart of Devon Economic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will meet the strategic needs of south west in economic, environmental and social terms.</li> <li>• The single most essential element in the sustainability and growth of the south west.</li> </ul>
West Devon Borough Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic benefit will assist the regeneration of Devon &amp; Cornwall.</li> <li>• Quicker and safer journeys.</li> <li>• Reduced CO2 production.</li> </ul>
J&R Frozen Foods Exeter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A303 will provide the greatest cost benefit and the least long-term damage in environmental grounds.</li> </ul>
Plymouth Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will provide long-term benefits for this part of the region.</li> <li>• Easier direct access for tourists.</li> <li>• Question HA statement that A358 provides better value for money.</li> </ul>
Reynolds Chartered Accountants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A303 provides greatest cost benefit and least long-term environmental damage.</li> </ul>

Met Office Exeter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dualling of A303 offers a genuine Trunk Road alternative to the M5.</li> <li>• A358 option will result in excess fuel being consumed and CO2 discharged.</li> </ul>
Director Tasklands Building Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A303 provides greatest cost benefit and least long-term environmental damage.</li> </ul>
Lewis Knight Chartered Accountants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will enable economy of south west to grow and support its businesses, both large and small.</li> </ul>
Circle Express Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road links important to this business. Current link between Ilminster and Honiton causes some downtime, dual carriageway would improve this</li> </ul>
Dartmoor Tourist Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A303 best option both on economic and environmental grounds.</li> </ul>
Dawlish Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current A303 single carriageway has appalling accident record.</li> <li>• A303 preferred route on economic and environmental grounds.</li> </ul>
Exeter Business Forum  Addressed to, Patricia Hewitt and David Jamieson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly support SWRA on this.</li> <li>• If Government is behind their statements of devolving decision-taking to the regions I urge them to accept the SWRA recommendation.</li> </ul>
Gregory Distribution Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to dual the 'missing link'.</li> <li>• Will reduce dependence on M4/M5 and exposure to congestion around the Bristol Box.</li> </ul>
G A Lott & Co Property Lawyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A healthy economy needs a vigorous flow of people and commerce.</li> </ul>
Exeter Business Forum  Addressed to, Patricia Hewitt and David Jamieson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly support SWRA on this.</li> <li>• If Government is behind their statements of devolving decision-taking to the regions I urge them to accept the SWRA recommendation.</li> </ul>
Exeter Vision partnership Exeter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A303 important to the long term health of the Exeter PUA and the Devon and Cornwall economy.</li> </ul>
Architect and Town Planner Taunton Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If dualling of A303 follows existing alignment foresee that over time road will merge into landscape.</li> <li>• Importance of this route paramount for economic reasons.</li> </ul>
Chief Executive Mid Devon District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports dualling of A303</li> </ul>

Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned about traffic congestion on the M5 and junction A358</li> </ul>
West Hatch Taunton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve traffic flow and safety (A303 accidents rates higher than the national average)</li> <li>• Environmental lobby grossly overstated. (Section of A30 already passes through Dartmoor National Park)</li> </ul>
Federation of Small Businesses South West Policy Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dualling of A303 would improve economic competitiveness by reducing peripherality and isolation.</li> <li>• Would be a safer and practicable alternative when M5 closed.</li> <li>• Dualling A358 will increase the net production of greenhouse gases by 3600 tonnes a year.</li> </ul>

## CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AGAINST THE DUALLING OF THE A303 AFTER THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MADE ITS RECOMMENDATION

### GOSW

ORGANISATION	COMMENTS
Chard, Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote is contrary to advice and research given to SWRA (SWARMMS rec. A358 option).</li> <li>• More expensive.</li> <li>• Harm to the environment.</li> <li>• Letter to Kim Howells MP</li> <li>• Decision made with majority of just one vote contrary to all advice and research given.</li> <li>• Decision will cost more to build, cause more harm to the environment and in long term less economic growth for UK.</li> <li>• Appealing to minister to create “a transport system that responds to the needs of individuals and business whilst safe guarding the environment”</li> </ul>
Transport 2000, Yeovil, Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This route was rejected by SWARMMS.</li> <li>• Will destroy ANOB</li> <li>• All road building generates an increase in traffic.</li> </ul>
Transport 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 164 Campaign E-mails received to date (For full text, please see end of report).</li> </ul>
Environment Agency, Millbank, London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contrary to Government's strong presumption against new or expanded transport infrastructure that adversely effects environmentally sensitive areas or AONBS</li> <li>• Impacts on biodiversity and groundwater protection exceed those of A358 .</li> <li>• Although A358 a longer route and will result in a greater output of CO2, there are opportunities to manage this effectively.</li> </ul>
The National Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWRA recommendation does not reflect the evidence presented to the SWRA in the HA appraisal report.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed clear conclusions of HA report in that A303 would significantly damage key aspects of the environment. Particularly in terms of landscape and biodiversity. Therefore unacceptable on environmental grounds and should <u>not</u> be considered.</li> <li>• Blackdowns is most recently designated AONB in the country.</li> <li>• Proposal contrary to Government policy.</li> <li>• Economy of region is to a large extent dependant on the high quality of the environment. Refer to trust's Valuing our Environment Study (2001).</li> </ul>
by email. London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking Alistair Darling to reject the option of dualling the A303, through the Blackdown Hills, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</li> <li>• Supports the Government's 'Strong presumption' against new road projects policy and want this to be applied to the A303.</li> <li>• Suggests investment into public transport alternatives, but if the government is determined to have a second strategic road to opt for the A358</li> <li>• Please don't rob the Blackdowns of their beauty and tranquillity.</li> </ul>
Ilminster, Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal will damage the environment and wildlife of Blackdown Hills.</li> </ul>
Plymouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal will badly damage Blackdown Hills ANOB and two SSSI's.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Castle Cary, Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would cause environmental damage. If Government determined to plough money into road building the A358 is the more acceptable option.</li> </ul>
Friends of the Earth South West England Office Bristol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government has a strong policy presumption against inflicting environmental damage on designated areas. SWARMMS consultants recommended on environmental grounds that A358 should be the preferred option. Further work by HA has confirmed the devastating impact that A303 option would have.</li> </ul>
Axminster Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental costs and financial costs of widening A303 greater than A358 option.</li> <li>• Commercial lobby is long termist. Fast roads do not encourage tourists to stop for an ice cream or use other local amenities.</li> </ul>
Penzance Cornwall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> <li>• Would prefer investment on public transport alternatives, especially rail.</li> <li>• If have to decide on a route choose the A358 (better value for money and not so damaging to environment)</li> </ul>

Cornwall Friends of the Earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> <li>• Criticises claims form Business community that dualling A303 would improve tourist industry. Majority of Cornwall residents would like a balanced economy.</li> </ul>
Devon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> </ul>
Surrey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> </ul>
Buckinghamshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> </ul>
Helston Cornwall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> </ul>
Taunton Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> <li>• SWARMMS proposals for public transport should be implemented</li> </ul>
Anon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> <li>• A358 best option and would have advantage of providing better access to North Dorset/South Somerset to Bridgwater and north-west Somerset</li> </ul>
Plymouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> <li>• A358 is best option lesser of two evils</li> <li>• More money should be invested in public transport including railway line that runs parallel to A303.</li> </ul>
Cornwall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> <li>• If absolutely necessary please choose A358 option.</li> </ul>
Helston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> <li>• If necessary widen the A358 option</li> </ul>
Wincanton Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental concerns</li> <li>• A358 option would be far less environmentally damaging</li> </ul>
Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refers to 1998 Transport White Paper</li> <li>• Refers to Government rejection in 2002 to double track Salisbury to Exeter railway line. This would have greatly improved transport links in the southwest.</li> </ul>

**HA**

Wellgreen Lane Kingston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Please don’t rob the Blackdown’s of their beauty and tranquillity”</li> <li>• Parents used to live in area and Mrs R knows it well “wonderful wildlife” “rich hedgerows”</li> <li>• “Faster travel not everything”</li> <li>• Option “has to high a price tag”</li> </ul>
Tollers Farm Honiton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not care if have to sit in traffic</li> <li>• Moved to the area for the beauty</li> <li>• Road will ruin the area</li> </ul>
Stout Farm Honiton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humans live at most until 120, the road and its consequences would last much longer</li> <li>• A majority of one vote in favour of the A303 is not a mandate</li> </ul>
Higher Holton Wincanton Somerset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Alistair Darling.</li> <li>• “Please, Please, don’t ruin the Blackdown Hills they are beautiful and peaceful”</li> <li>• “Its good for us to slow down to 50Mph”</li> <li>• Buddhist monastery is on the other side of valley; it would be awful if peace were shattered by dual carriageway.</li> </ul>
The Countryside Agency John Dower House Crescent Place Cheltenham GL50 3RA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Alistair Darling</li> <li>• Re-iterating view that A358 is the more sustainable.</li> <li>• Quotes GOMMMS/NATEA, TIES &amp; SWARMMS</li> <li>• Accident rates on A303 are unexceptional and dualling the route would not produce exceptional benefits from accident reduction. Certain safety problems should be addressed on A303</li> <li>• The CA considers with appropriate safety works and signage, A303 can remain part of a wider route network in the South West.</li> </ul>
Over Stratton South Petherton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Alistair Darling</li> <li>• Government policy says that roads should not be built through AONB like the Blackdown Hills.</li> <li>• “You really only have on option and it is to widen the A358 to join the M5 at Taunton”</li> <li>• “Please make sure you take a responsible decision over this”.</li> </ul>

Cirencester Glos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Alistair Darling</li> <li>• Writing in the hope you will decide to protect the Blackdown Hills from blight and destruction.</li> <li>• “It should by now be recognised truism that more roads means more traffic”</li> <li>• “This beautiful area needs protecting not destroying”</li> </ul>
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## **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN SUPPORT OF THE DUALLING OF THE A358 AFTER THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MADE ITS RECOMMENDATION**

### **GOSW**

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Weymouth and Portland Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interests of South Dorset in terms of the provision and improvement of necessary road links can only succeed if the improvements to the A358 are implemented as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Businesses and tourism industry in South Dorset and Weymouth &amp; Portland area will benefit by this route.</li> <li>• Environmental impact is substantially less.</li> <li>• Less expensive.</li> </ul>
Somerset CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting A358 route option.</li> </ul>

## CORRESPONDENCE FROM LOCAL MP'S AFTER THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MADE ITS RECOMMENDATION

### GOSW - MPS

ORGANISATION	COMMENTS
MP Lab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Alistair Darling in support of dualling the A303.</li> <li>• In weighing up environmental argument it is worth considering that the A303 is currently congested and combined with high emissions resulting from frequent gear changes. I know as I use it!</li> <li>• Believes it is possible to design an environmentally sensitive dualling, such as that on the motorway that travels through Cumbria.</li> </ul>

### HA – MP's

ORGANISATION	COMMENTS
MP Con MP Lab MP LD MP Con MP Con	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Alistair Darling, writing for cross-party A358 Parliamentary Action Group.</li> <li>• Feels the assembly, perversely in thier view have supported the environmentally damaging A303 scheme - the option less favoured by studies commissioned.</li> <li>• Looking for a delegation to be received by Mr Darling to present the case for upgrading the A358.</li> <li>• PQs asking what plans the SoS had for dualling the A303 and when it would be added to the TPI.</li> </ul>

## CAMPAIGNS

204 emails have been received opposing the A303 option. These emails contain the text as detailed below;

*Dear Mr Darling,*

*I am writing to ask you to reject the option of dualling the A303 trunk road through the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.*

*I support the Government's policy that there should be a 'strong presumption' against new road projects that would damage designated areas, and urge you to apply it in this case.*

*I would prefer to see investment going into public transport alternatives, but if the Government is determined to press ahead with a second strategic road route to the West Country then it has an alternative, the A358.*

*This would be better value for money and nowhere near as damaging to the environment as the A303. There is no evidence that either option has any more benefit for the economy than the other.*