STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE PROPOSALS

1. Introduction

1.1 The Secretary of State for Transport (“Secretary of State”) has published proposals (Orders) for an Improvement between Parton and Lillyhall. This statement explains the proposals, it is not itself part of the Orders.

1.2 The proposals are contained in three Orders now published in draft under the Highways Act 1980. The purpose of the Draft Orders is to authorise the Secretary of State to:

a) Provide a new 5.29km length of dual carriageway trunk road from a point on the existing A595 at Moresby in the County of Cumbria, 245 metres south of the A595/U4009 Junction, proceeding in a generally northerly direction, to a point on the existing A595 Trunk Road 180 metres north of the A595/A596 junction. (Draft Line Order)

b) Provide for that length of the A595 Trunk Road which is to be superseded by the Improvement, to cease to be a trunk road (Draft Detrunking Order).

c) Provide for the stopping up of existing highways (including footpaths) and private means of access, and to construct new highways and accesses which may be
necessary for the construction of the new trunk road (Draft Side Roads Order).

d) Obtain the land and rights required to construct the proposed bypass and to mitigate its effects (Draft Compulsory Purchase Order).

2. **Need for the New Road**

2.1 The existing A595 is an important part of the trunk road network, connecting West Cumbria and the two centres of Whitehaven and Workington to the M6 at Penrith via the A66.

2.2 Over 17,000 vehicles per day use the section between Parton and Lillyhall, some 8% of them heavy goods vehicles.

2.3 The road is narrow with frequent junctions and accesses. In places, the road has bends which are tighter than desirable for the standard of road and normal traffic speed (sub standard horizontal alignment).

2.4 In other places the view ahead desirable for the speed of traffic is restricted by undulations in the road (sub standard vertical alignment). The route passes through several local communities. Congestion is already a problem and as traffic increases conditions will deteriorate.

2.5 The proposal will bring substantial relief by removing through traffic from local communities. It will provide a better standard of trunk road, promoting a more efficient transport system in the area, and will improve access to other regional centres in the County and within the North-West region as a whole.

2.6 It will contribute to greater road safety and should encourage economic growth by reducing transport costs.

3. **Environmental Considerations**

3.1 Environmental benefits will be brought to the local communities from reduction in noise levels, dust, dirt, fumes and it will improve traffic and pedestrian safety.

3.2 The new route will require acquisition of agricultural land for its construction, and will result in some severance to the affected agricultural land holdings.

3.3 The removal of most of the existing traffic from this section of the A595, will, it is hoped, lead to a safer and more peaceful community.
3.4 An Environmental Statement, giving a detailed account of the impact of the proposed bypass, will be placed on deposit with the Draft Orders, and a Non-Technical Summary will also be available on request.

4. **Explanation of the Statutory Procedures**

The Procedures

4.1 As part of the process of planning a new section of trunk road, the Secretary of State is required to make Orders under the Highways Act 1980. The Line Order fixes the route of the new road and authorises the Secretary of State to construct it. The Side Roads Order authorises the Secretary of State to make alterations to existing highways, footpaths and accesses affected by the new road. A De-Trunking Order transfers responsibility for any bypassed section of the existing road to the local highway authority. The Draft Compulsory Purchase Order specifies all the land and rights needed to construct the scheme, and to mitigate against its effects.

4.2 The Secretary of State first publishes proposals in the form of Draft Orders and allows the public and interested organisations a period of time to comment on, or object to, them. The Draft Orders are proposals only and the Secretary of State is in no way committed to them. If Ministers decide that a Public Inquiry is necessary this would be conducted by an independent Inspector nominated by the Lord Chancellor. After considering all the objections received and the Inspector’s Report of any Inquiry held, the Secretary of State will decide whether to confirm the proposals (either as published or with modifications), or to publish different proposals, or abandon the proposals.

Pre-Conditions to Stopping Up Public Highways

4.3 The Highways Act 1980 lays down certain conditions which have to be satisfied before the Secretary of State can make a Side Roads Order. Firstly, he cannot make an Order stopping up a public highway unless he is satisfied either that there is another reasonably convenient route available, or that one will be provided before the highway is stopped up. Secondly, he cannot make an Order which provides for the stopping up of a private means of access to premises unless he is satisfied either that no access is reasonably required, or that an alternative is available or will be provided.

Representations or Objections

4.4 Anyone wishing to make representations about, or objection to, any aspect of the published proposals may not later than 24 May 2005 or 12 weeks from the date of the first publication of the Draft Orders write to the Secretary of State at: The Highways Agency, Room 710, Sunley Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester, M1 4BE, quoting reference HA/065/030/132 or by email to; mal.sinfield@highways.gsi.gov.uk.
4.5 In the preparation of an objection or representation, it should be noted that the substance of any objections or representations may be communicated to other people who may be affected by it.

4.6 Objections and communications will be carefully considered before a decision is taken whether or not to hold a Public Inquiry and before the Secretary of State comes to a decision on whether the Draft Orders should be made in whole, or in part, or modified.

5. Further Information

5.1 Copies of the Draft Orders are available for inspection from 1st March 2005 to 24 May 2005 at the following places:

- The Highways Agency, Major Projects Division, Room 710, Sunley Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester, M1 4BE

- The Offices of Copeland Borough Council, Planning Office, Catherine St Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7NY.

- Allerdale Borough Council, Planning Office, Allerdale House, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3YJ.

- Distingtion Library, Community Centre Church Road, Distingtion, Cumbria, CA14 5TE

- Daniel Day Library, Lowther Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7TZ.

5.2 An exhibition of plans, drawings and other material will be on display at Distingtion Community Centre, Church Road, Distingtion, Cumbria, CA14 5TE on the following dates:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th March 2005</td>
<td>6.00pm to 9.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18th March 2005</td>
<td>10.00am to 8.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 19th March 2005</td>
<td>10.00am to 2.00pm</td>
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Admission is free and you are invited to attend. Staff will be present from the Highways Agency and their agents Morrison Construction Services and Hyder Consulting, to explain the proposals and answer your questions.