

Ministear airson Taigheadas agus Còmh-dhail  
Minister for Housing and Transport  
Keith Mac Ille Dhuinn BPA  
Keith Brown MSP

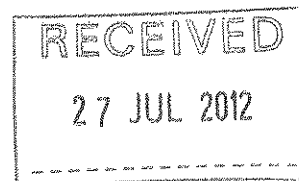
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Mr William Walker MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP



Ur faidhle/Your ref:  
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2012/0022973



19 July 2012

Dear Bill

Thank you for copying me into your email response of 29 June to your constituent, Mr Steven Hope, regarding his views on the provision of cycling and walking facilities on the A985. Mr Hope is correct in saying that trunk roads are the responsibility of Transport Scotland and currently many local authorities are working in partnership to upgrade and improve cycling and walking facilities across the network. For example, the Trunk Road Cycling Initiative, operated by Transport Scotland, has a requirement for cyclists to be given special consideration in all new trunk road schemes and within improvements, and will be subject to cycle audits in accordance with *Cycling by Design*. This can range from creating new cycle paths to providing space for cyclists on shared roads. To assist local authorities, Transport Scotland published a revised version of *Cycling by Design* in 2010 and has since held tutorial events for professionals and stakeholders in the active travel field.

Transport Scotland has also taken significant steps to support local authorities' investment needs for cyclists. As part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, John Swinney announced the retaining of the ring-fenced Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets grant which provides additional funding for active travel. In 2012-13 this will be £6.069m and will enable those local authorities who prioritise cycling and walking to invest in local facilities. Fife Council will receive £424,000 from this Fund and can add to it from its own resources if they wish to do so. The Scottish Government is committed to providing more infrastructure for active travel. On Wednesday 8 February, Mr Swinney announced an additional £20.25 million for active travel projects, focussing on cycling and walking infrastructure, over the next three financial years. This is in addition to the £15 million for wider Sustainable and Active Travel initiatives announced as part of the Draft Budget last September. This means that over the next 3 financial years Sustrans will receive £7.16m/£8.16m/£9.16m respectively for mainly cycling infrastructure projects which can be used to match fund local authority projects.

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On the softer measures side, and with Scottish Government grant funding, Cycling Scotland runs a campaign called "Give Me Cycle Space" which is aimed at drivers, especially during the school run periods, which encourages them to look out for children cycling to school. This has proven popular with both drivers and parents in allowing their children to cycle to school. In May and June this year the campaign ran in 12 local authorities, including Fife. One of the benefits from this campaign is that drivers tend to be more aware of all cyclists on the road and in the areas where the campaign is run, the speed of vehicles is also reduced.

I suggest Mr Hope encourages officials at Fife Council to contact Transport Scotland's Area Manager for the A985:

Mr Ricardo Aigbekaen  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House  
58 Port Dundas Road  
Glasgow G4 0HF  
Tel: 0141 272 7349

I do hope that Fife Council and Transport Scotland can answer constituent's concerns regarding the A985 and try to identify some suitable solutions.

Kind regards

**KEITH BROWN**