

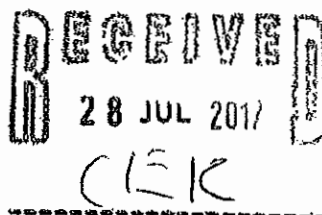


The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Dean Lockhart MSP

*Member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid-Scotland and Fife
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work*

Minister for Transport and Islands
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG



25th July 2017

Dear Humza,

A84- Blairdrummond Safari Park

I am writing to you regarding several constituents who have contacted me concerning the safety of the entrance to the Blairdrummond Safari Park on the A84 outside Stirling.

It is my understanding that this is a long running serious road safety issue, and given the large amount of correspondence from MSPs, councillors and community councils on this issue I can see little benefit in repeating this an instead appeal to your office for direct and urgent input.

As I am sure you are aware, the Blairdrummond Safari Park, located just outside of Stirling on the A84, is one of the most popular visitor attractions in the region and as such can often attract large numbers of vehicles to the site. This is especially the case during peak holiday periods. At present the entrance/exit is sited just off the busy A84 trunk road opposite a small local turning which often acts as a crossroads. As a result of the layout, there can often be long queues of traffic stretching back as far as the outskirts of the city of Stirling. There is no separate lane for vehicles accessing the park.

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Dean Lockhart MSP

*Member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid-Scotland and Fife
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work*

On numerous occasions the lack of specific lanes for visitors to the park can lead to other road users attempting incredibly dangerous overtaking manoeuvres to bypass the congestion. As a result, traffic attempting to pull out of the junction to exit the safari park are faced with fast moving traffic from both directions. This is also exacerbated by the bus stops which exist either side of the road past the junction. These road traffic factors all combine to result in, what I am sure you will agree, can be an extremely dangerous situation for road users.

It is important to acknowledge the pro-active approach taken by the owner of the safari park, who has consistently raised this issue with Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government for many years and I believe has even gone as far as to offer financial contributions to meet the cost of improvements on more than one occasion. There have also been site meetings involving Transport Scotland officials, MSPs, local councillors, the park owner and community council representatives alongside a vast amount of correspondence.

In terms of addressing these issues, Transport Scotland have acknowledged the problems on the site and installed electronic signage along the approach to warn of queuing traffic however this is largely seen as ineffective without complementary changes to the road layout.

It is my understanding that the road layout will not be re-considered as under the criteria for assessing spend on road safety, as there have not been enough serious incidents to make it a priority. Whilst I fully understand the budgetary constraints placed upon Transport Scotland when allocating resources, I consider that the lack of incidents has rather been by sheer good fortune than due to a lack of seriousness. For example, a few years ago, a bus stop was hit by an oncoming vehicle at speed as they tried to avoid an oncoming vehicle. Fortunately, nobody was seriously injured in the incident, however had the timing of the crash been at a time of the day when visitors were arriving or leaving the park then the consequences could have been very severe.

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Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work*

In my opinion, no criteria should prevent professional judgement and common sense from being applied and I sincerely hope that you will recognise that, in this case, there are very good reasons why the infrastructure should be improved. We have to act before a tragedy does occur, as I think that it will in the near future if the situation is not addressed.

I am copying in Bruce Crawford MSP, who I believe has been involved with this issue in the past and Stephen Kerr MP, along with local elected representatives and community councillors.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Lockhart MSP

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Chief Executive's Office

Roy Brannen

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

chiefexecutive@transport.gov.scot



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDAIL ALBA

Dean Lockhart MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref:
2017/0026461

Date:
17 August 2017

Dear Mr Lockhart MSP

A84 Blairdrummond Safari Park

Thank you for your letter of 25 July to Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for Transport and the Islands, on behalf of your constituents, about the A84 trunk road at Blairdrummond Safari Park. As this is a matter delegated to Transport Scotland, and our Chief Executive, Roy Brannen, is currently out of the office, I am replying on his behalf.

I can advise that we have previously met with the owners of the Safari Park to discuss this junction, the most recent meeting being on 2 November 2016. As part of these discussions, the Park owners said that they would employ a consultant to examine traffic flows at the junction and to explore potential options for the junction.

This study identified that the junction congestion issues you refer to are only experienced at the busiest peak periods for the Safari Park. I have asked my team to arrange a follow-up meeting in the coming weeks with the Park owners to discuss the study's findings.

As you will be aware, we monitor the safety performance of the whole trunk road network annually using Police Scotland accident statistics. This identifies sites of existing accident history which may require further investigation and potential works (depending on the accident types and causes). This helps to ensure that our budgets are prioritised and targeted at locations with a known accident history. Whilst our records show no personal injury accidents at this junction since 2014, we will continue to monitor road safety at this location.

At our next meeting with the Safari Park owners, we will also discuss the experience of this summer's peak demand and how the junction has operated during peak periods.

Meanwhile, we will continue to maintain the A84 which, since 2007/08, has seen an investment of approximately £12.5 million by the Scottish Government. For example in May, resurfacing and lining works were carried out on the A84 from Nyadd to Blairdrummond, as well as resurfacing from Buchany to Kirton. Other works will be developed throughout the year as a result of the continuing weekly inspections by our Operating Company.



I hope this is helpful.

I am copying this reply to the Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP.

Yours sincerely



HUGH GILLIES
Director of Trunk Roads and Bus Operations



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Dean Lockhart MSP

*Member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid-Scotland and Fife
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work*

Mr Hugh Gillies
Director of Trunk Roads and Operations
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road,
Glasgow
G4 0HF

21st August 2017

Dear Mr Gillies

A84 Blairdrummond Safari Park

Thank you for your reply of 17th August 2017 to my letter to Humza Yousaf MSP, Minister for Transport and the Islands, regarding the trunk road at Blairdrummond Safari Park.

I understand from your letter that you will be seeking to arrange a meeting with the park owners to discuss findings from the study into congestion at the junction. I feel that it might be beneficial in this instance to involve members of the two immediately impacted community councils, Thornhill & Blairdrummond and Kilmadock Community Councils, in this meeting as they have been directly involved in this issue for a number of years. Furthermore, if such a meeting were to take place, then I would welcome the opportunity to attend in person to discuss the issue further.

In response to the various points raised in your letter, firstly, whilst I appreciate that congestion issues will evidently be more acute during peak times, the community would argue that there still needs to be a plan in place to ensure the safety of all road users.

Secondly, I understand that budgets need to be prioritised and targeted according to those in most need or with a known accident history. However, in this instance, I am aware that the significant number of near misses at this location are not included in the data used by Transport Scotland and thus should not be seen as a robust barometer of the

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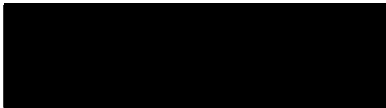
Dean Lockhart MSP

*Member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid-Scotland and Fife
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work*

inherent danger at this particular junction. Furthermore, the criteria for setting these budgetary restrictions seem to not contain the flexibility to reflect instances where third parties have offered to make financial contributions to future road traffic measures.

I am copying this reply to my colleagues Bruce Crawford MSP and Stephen Kerr MP who have asked to be kept informed.

Yours sincerely,



Dean Lockhart MSP

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Dean Lockhart MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref:
2017/0030010

Date:
13 September 2017

Dear Mr Lockhart MSP

A84 Blairdrummond Safari Park

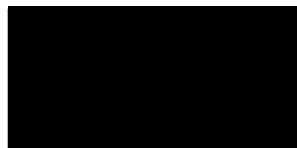
Thank you for your letter of 21 August, about the A84 trunk road at Blairdrummond Safari Park.

We will be happy to invite you, Bruce Crawford MSP and representatives from the two community councils to a forthcoming meeting with the Safari Park owners to discuss the options for the A84 junction. The Area Manager for the route, [REDACTED] will be in touch shortly to arrange a suitable date and time.

I hope this is helpful.

I am copying this reply to the Minister for Transport and the Islands, Humza Yousaf MSP and Bruce Crawford MSP.

Yours sincerely



HUGH GILLIES
Director of Trunk Roads and Bus Operations



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Dean Lockhart MSP

*Member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid-Scotland and Fife
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work*

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

25th September 2018

Dear Michael,

A84- Blairdrummond Safari Park

I write in reference to an ongoing road safety issue at the entrance to the Blairdrummond Safari Park on the A84 outside Stirling.

On numerous occasions the lack of specific lanes for visitors to the park can lead to other road users attempting incredibly dangerous overtaking manoeuvres to bypass the congestion. As a result, traffic attempting to pull out of the junction to exit the safari park are faced with fast moving traffic from both directions. This is also exacerbated by the bus stops which exist either side of the road past the junction. These road traffic factors all combine to result in, what I am sure you will agree, can be an extremely dangerous situation for road users.

These issues were addressed at a meeting between myself, Bruce Crawford MSP, local councillors, safari park owners, community representatives and Transport Scotland at the end of last year. It was then agreed by Transport Scotland to commission BEAR Scotland to undertake a feasibility study and outline design, including indicative costs, for potential improvements to the existing junction between the A84 and A873 to report by the end of this summer.

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Roads

Hugh Gillies

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

Hugh.Gillies@transport.gov.scot



**TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND**
CÒMHDAHAIL ALBA

Dean Lockhart MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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Our ref:
2018/0033583

Date:
17 October 2018

Dear Mr Lockhart MSP

A84 Blairdrummond Safari Park

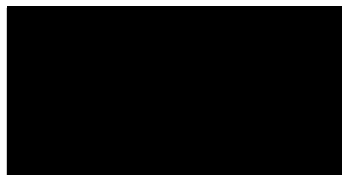
Thank you for your letter of 25 September to Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, about the A84 at Blairdrummond Safari Park. As this is an operational matter for Transport Scotland, I have been asked to reply.

We have been working with our operating company BEAR Scotland to finalise the report which has unfortunately taken longer than was initially anticipated. Notwithstanding this, we expect the final report to be available in the coming weeks and will forward a copy of this to you for your records.

I hope this is helpful.

I am copying this reply to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity.

Yours sincerely



HUGH GILLIES
Director of Roads

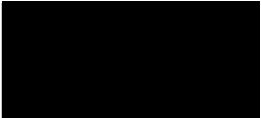


Dear Mr Lockhart

Further to Hugh Gillies' earlier letter of 17th October I am writing to provide you with an update on our report to review options to form a roundabout west of the Blair Drummond Safari Park at the A84/ A873 and A84/B8075 junctions.

The report has taken longer to complete than we anticipated and now needs further consideration within Transport Scotland before being finalised and shared with stakeholders. We expect to be able to provide a further update by the end of January, if not sooner, and also intend to reconvene a meeting of the interested stakeholders at the earliest opportunity.

Regards,



Network Manager
Network Maintenance



[@transport.gov.scot](mailto: @transport.gov.scot)

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency
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Tha am post-d seo (agus faidhle neo ceanglan còmhla ris) dhan neach neo luchd-ainmichte a-mhàin. Chan eil e ceadaichte a chleachdadh ann an dòigh sam bith, a' toirt a-steach còraichean, foillseachadh neo sgaoileadh, gun chead. Ma 's e is gun d'fhuair sibh seo gun fhiosd', bu choir cur às dhan phost-d agus lethbhreac sam bith air an t-siostam agaibh agus fios a leigeil chun neach a sgaoil am post-d gun dàil. Dh'fhaodadh gum bi teachdaireachd sam bith bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a chlàradh neo air a sgrùdadh airson dearbhadh gu bheil an siostam ag obair gu h-èifeachdach neo airson adhbhar laghail eile. Dh'fhaodadh nach eil beachdan anns a' phost-d seo co-ionann ri beachdan Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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To: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>
Cc: Lockhart D (Dean), MSP <Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: A84 Blair Drummond Safari Park - response to [REDACTED] on behalf of Dean Lockhart MSP 27/9/18

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 27th September 2018 regarding the timing of the draft report on the Feasibility Study into potential improvements to A84/ A873/B8075 junction.

Dean has asked me to follow-up with you about the release of the report, which was noted in your email and Transport Scotland's response to the Stirling Observer on 28th September as being available to stakeholders within 4/5 weeks. Are Transport Scotland now in a position to issue the report, so that we can inform the local communities of potential actions which could be taken?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Head of Office
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M2.12, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

T: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

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From: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 27 September 2018 10:40
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot
Subject: RE: A84 Blair Drummond Safari Park - response to [REDACTED] on behalf of Dean Lockhart MSP 27/9/18

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email below on behalf of Mr Lockhart.

My apologies for the delay in responding to your email below. A formal response has been issued (or will be shortly) to the Stirling Observer following Mr Lockhart's Press Release on this matter.

Transport Scotland received the draft report on the Feasibility Study into potential improvements to A84/ A873/B8075 junction which could address the issues at the existing junction to the Safari Park from BEAR some weeks ago and after a detailed review, comments were sent back.

Discussions on that draft report have taken place between myself and BEAR over a period which, unfortunately, was extended due to annual leave. The various amendments to the draft report have recently been agreed and the consultants who prepared the report on behalf of BEAR (Jacobs) are expected to be able to complete these in around 4/5 weeks.

As is indicated in the TS response to the Stirling Observer, we will then be in a position to share the report with stakeholders.

Regards

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 21 November 2018 16:11
To: [Redacted]@parliament.scot>
Cc: [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: A84 Blair Drummond Safari Park - response to Thomas Heald on behalf of Dean Lockhart MSP 21/11/18

Dear [Redacted]

We have had a couple of final iterations of the report which I received just last week whilst I was on leave. Senior staff in TS are now being consulted with a view to imminent issue of the report to Stakeholders.

Regards

[Redacted]

Area Manager NW
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
[Redacted]
Please see our [privacy policy](#) to find out why we collect personal information and how we use it

From: [Redacted]@parliament.scot>
Sent: 21 November 2018 13:48
To: [Redacted] @transport.gov.scot>
Cc: Lockhart D (Dean), MSP <Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: A84 Blair Drummond Safari Park - response to [Redacted] on behalf of Dean Lockhart MSP 27/9/18

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your email dated 27th September 2018 regarding the timing of the draft report on the Feasibility Study into potential improvements to A84/ A873/B8075 junction.

[Redacted] has asked me to follow-up with you about the release of the report, which was noted in your email and Transport Scotland's response to the Stirling Observer on 28th September as being available to stakeholders within 4/5 weeks. Are Transport Scotland now in a position to issue the report, so that we can inform the local communities of potential actions which could be taken?

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Head of Office

Office of Dean Lockhart MSP
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From: [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2018 10:40

To: [Redacted]@parliament.scot>

Cc: [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot

Subject: RE: A84 Blair Drummond Safari Park - response to [Redacted] on behalf of Dean Lockhart MSP 27/9/18

Dear [Redacted]

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As is indicated in the TS response to the Stirling Observer, we will then be in a position to share the report with stakeholders.

Regards

[Redacted]

Area Manager NW

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

[Redacted] *Please see our [privacy policy](#) to find out why we collect personal information and how we use it*

From:[Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Lockhart D (Dean), MSP

Sent: 18 September 2018 13:39

To: [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: Blair Drummond Safari Park

Dear [Redacted],

As you will be aware, we met last year in relation to improvements on the A84 near Blair Drummond Safari Park.

I was just wondering whether there was any update on the publication of a report?

Sincerely,

Dean Lockhart MSP
Mid-Scotland and Fife

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Lockhart D (Dean), MSP
Sent: 20 February 2019 14:12
To: [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot; Lockhart D (Dean), MSP
<Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot>
Cc: [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: A84 Blair Drummond Junction - Options Report - Update to Mr Dean Lockhart MSP - 12 December 2018

Dear [Redacted],

Thank you for your update below in December.

In the email you mentioned that a further update would be provided by the end of January, if not sooner. I have had representations from the local community that there is some concern that there has not been an update for some time.

Would you be able to provide me with an update on the status of the report so that I can report back?

Kind regards,

Dean Lockhart MSP
Mid-Scotland and Fife

From: [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot;
Sent: 12 December 2018 12:16
To: Lockhart D (Dean), MSP <Dean.Lockhart.msp@parliament.scot>
Cc: [Redacted]@parliament.scot>; [Redacted]@transport.gov.scot;
Subject: A84 Blair Drummond Junction - Options Report - Update to Mr Dean Lockhart MSP - 12 December 2018

Dear Mr Lockhart

Further to Hugh Gillies' earlier letter of 17th October I am writing to provide you with an update on our report to review options to form a roundabout west of the Blair Drummond Safari Park at the A84/ A873 and A84/B8075 junctions.

The report has taken longer to complete than we anticipated and now needs further consideration within Transport Scotland before being finalised and shared with stakeholders. We expect to be able to provide a further update by the end of January, if not sooner, and also intend to reconvene a meeting of the interested stakeholders at the earliest opportunity.

Regards,

[Redacted]

Network Manager
Network Maintenance

[Redacted]

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency

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