



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Peter Chapman MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for North East Region

Paul Wheelhouse MSP
Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

13th December 2018.

Dear Paul,

I am writing to you following the publication of the Scottish Governments 2019/2020 Budget.

On 14 December 2017, the Scottish Government announced investment of £600m for the initial phase of the R100 programme.

The total Digital Connectivity budget for 2017/18 was £114.6m, 2018/19 £36.7m and now 2019/20 £32.9m.

With this budget decreasing year on year, when does the Scottish Government intend to spend the £600m that was promised in 2017?

Have any of the contracts been delivered and signed to deliver the R100 scheme?

The scheme was due to be delivered by the end of 2021, it would appear that this deadline has no chance of being achieved.

With poor broadband speeds being one of the most frequent issues brought to me by constituents I am shocked by this apparent total lack of progress on this promised programme.

I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Chapman



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Michael Matheson MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

15 March 2019

Dear Mr Matheson

Thank you for your letter in response to my earlier correspondence regarding the R100 programme.

While the letter did contain the occasional piece of useful information I would be grateful if you were able to respond to the specific requests for information contained in my original letter. These have been raised with me by my constituents and, as I am sure you understand, they will expect these requests to be properly addressed in reasonable detail by the Scottish Government however difficult that may be to achieve.

Can you provide answers to the following questions which I can pass on to my constituents?

- Will the project be completed by the end of 2021 as previously announced?
- Does the Scottish Government have a clear indication of timescales for such an important project? 'Later this year' is extremely vague and very concerning.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely

Stephen Kerr
Member of Parliament for Stirling

Our Ref: LM/LH/Whee001/3
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT



8 May 2019

Liam McArthur
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Orkney

Paul Wheelhouse MSP
Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

Further to your response to a Parliamentary Question from Mike Rumbles, I write to relay concerns I have regarding the delay in tendering the contract.

Given that there will be no clarity on the winning bidder and how, or indeed whether, they plan to deliver the Government's target until the end of 2019, I would appreciate confirmation that the Scottish Government remains committed to the roll out of high speed broadband in 100% of properties across Scotland by 2021, as per the original pledge.

I would also be grateful for confirmation that the Scottish Government is committed to the principle of 'outside in', and the prioritisation of more remote parts of the country within the next phase of the programme's roll out.

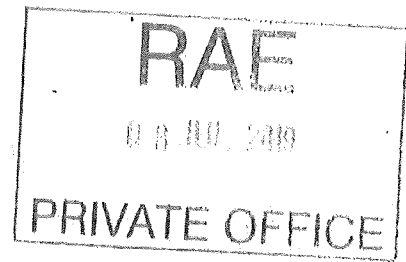
I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Liam McArthur MSP



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



Donald Cameron MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Highlands & Islands

Mr Fergus Ewing MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy
Rural Economy
Scottish Government
St. Andrews House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

4th July 2019

Dear Fergus,

Re: fibre optic cable installation in South East Kintyre

I am writing on behalf of a constituent, [REDACTED] who recently contacted me regarding his concerns about the delays and costs involved in getting fibre optic cabling installed in South East Kintyre.

[REDACTED] informs me that for years he has been trying to get fibre-optic cabling installed in South East Kintyre area [REDACTED]. Over the last eight months, he had been promised installation at a price of the [REDACTED] subject to survey.

This figure is, of course, more than covered by the Scottish Government's voucher scheme. There are 19 units involved in this remote and rural area of South East Kintyre (postcodes [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]).

However [REDACTED] has just been informed by BT that the figure they have arrived at is [REDACTED]. It is hardly surprising that as a result the community there feels angry, disenfranchised and forgotten. BT have apparently justified the 474% price hike by the amount of additional new works and infrastructure that is needed.

I am sure I do not need to remind you that it was a SNP manifesto pledge to spend £600m on a roll-out of superfast broadband to all of rural Scotland, delivering 100% access to 30Mbps internet speed to every home and business in Scotland's most remote communities by the end of 2021. It is a flagship SNP programme called 'Reaching 100'.

However, we are now over half way through 2019, and as you will be aware your ministerial colleague, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands recently admitted it was impossible to say if this date would be met. It would seem to me that your own government is on course to miss its own target to achieve this. This is the latest example of SNP mismanagement and it plainly risks leaving Scotland's remote and rural communities such as the one in South East Kintyre

at a significant disadvantage. It begs the question whether your party have any realisation of the complexities and constraints of any construction project designed and planned for the Highlands and Islands.

[REDACTED] has asked me to put a number of questions to you, notwithstanding the current uncertainty about whether the Scottish Government will be able to achieve their flagship R100 programme.

1. [REDACTED] would very much like to know the current position regarding the Scottish Government's R100 broadband plans?

2. When will these plans be fully implemented?

3. When will this be achieved for communities in postcodes [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

I would be grateful for your comment on these matters and I look forward to your response in due course.

Please note that this letter was issued from my regional office in Oban. The address to reply to is overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald Cameron', written in a cursive style.

Donald Cameron MSP
Member for Highlands and Islands region