

Annex F – Email from the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Private Office to Transport Scotland noting briefing note and providing a copy of letter to Lewis MacDonald MSP – 01 April 2019

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2019 14:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: A96 East of HAuntly to Aberdeen - briefing note and draft letter for Lewis MacDonald
Attachments: Letter issued.pdf

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity
Sent: 08 April 2019 16:22
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: A96 East of HAuntly to Aberdeen - briefing note and draft letter for Lewis MacDonald

Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies that a signed copy wasn't sent back to yourself – please find attached a signed and issued letter to Lewis Macdonald this was sent on the 1st April at 15:44

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Assistant Private Secretary to Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure & Connectivity
The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot
Tel: [REDACTED] Email: CabSecTIC@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 April 2019 08:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: A96 East of HAuntly to Aberdeen - briefing note and draft letter for Lewis MacDonald

Good morning [REDACTED]

Grateful if you could confirm when the letter was issued.

Regards,

Major Projects Design Administrator
Transport Scotland



EXT

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



TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
COMHDHAIL ALBA



From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

Sent: 01 April 2019 15:12

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland
<ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Communications Economy <CommunicationsEconomy@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Secretariat <TSS@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: A96 East of HAuntly to Aberdeen - briefing note and draft letter for Lewis MacDonald

Mr Matheson is noted the outcome.

I will arrange letter to be issued.

Many thanks

[REDACTED] Private Secretary to Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Web: www.gov.scot

Tel: [REDACTED] | Mob: [REDACTED] Email: CabSecTIC@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 March 2019 11:43

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Communications Economy <CommunicationsEconomy@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Secretariat <TSS@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: A96 East of Huntly to Aberdeen - briefing note and draft letter for Lewis MacDonald

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity,

Following your meeting with Lewis MacDonald MSP on 12 March 2019 regarding the A96 East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme please find attached a briefing note on the rationale behind de-selecting the online option through Inverurie and a draft letter for Lewis MacDonald, as requested.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Major Projects Design Administrator
Transport Scotland

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Lewis Macdonald MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

01 April 2019

Dear Lewis

I refer to our meeting of 12 March 2019 in relation to the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme. During the meeting I committed to provide further details on the early route option assessment work and subsequent deselection of the online route option through Inverurie.

To establish a preferred line for a trunk road improvement, like the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme, Transport Scotland implements a rigorous assessment process, based on standards set by the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), which covers environmental, engineering, traffic and economic considerations.

As confirmed during our meeting, re-use of the existing A96, including the existing A96 at Inverurie, has been investigated thoroughly as part of the early assessment work undertaken by Transport Scotland. The outcomes of this work concluded that the existing single carriageway trunk road alignment, in combination with roadside properties and the density of junctions and accesses, constrains an online upgrade of the existing A96 through a number of sections of the route, including the section at Inverurie.

The assessment work established that to provide an online dual carriageway on the existing A96 at Inverurie, along with the necessary grade separation of the Blackhall Roundabout and associated slip roads, would have a detrimental impact on existing residential properties. The existing A96 at Inverurie at its narrowest point is only 21m between road boundaries with residential gardens and property access roads immediately outside the road boundary. The required cross section for a new rural dual carriageway and slip roads serving a new grade separated Blackhall Junction is 51.1m excluding any earthworks or retaining walls.

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The immediate impact of this option would be the demolition of at least 19 residential properties, with at least a further 22 residential properties losing some or all of their back gardens. In many cases the impact on these further properties would necessitate their purchase where most of their gardens are lost and retaining walls close to their homes. Furthermore, even where properties are not directly affected, the visual, noise and air quality impacts are significant where the existing landscaping is removed and the trunk road is raised in level.

In addition there would be minimal traffic benefits for Inverurie in dualling the existing A96 online as this option does not reduce the traffic within the town itself with the A96 junction remaining in its current location. In addition, the constructability of dualling the Inverurie Bypass in such a constrained corridor will prove difficult and may require the diversion of trunk road traffic through the town for long periods during construction with the associated impacts this will have on the community.

On this basis, the assessment determined that it would be more suitable to develop the new dual carriageway remote from the existing Trunk Road at Inverurie, with the existing A96 retained for use as part of the local road network.

I would like to reassure you that meaningful engagement with communities and businesses forms a key part of our work as we develop our plans, and I confirm that the feedback received following the public exhibitions held in October 2018 will be taken into account during the development and assessment of the options under consideration.

As discussed at our meeting, the intention is to hold further public consultations later this year to provide a route option design and assessment update, as well as providing the reasons for deselection of the online option at Inverurie. I can confirm that Transport Scotland will also offer to meet with the A96 Action Group in conjunction with the planned public exhibitions later this year.

I hope this is helpful.



MICHAEL MATHESON

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