

**Email to Alex Salmond, 3 August 2017 @ 14:38:**

Dear Mr Salmond

The Scottish Government has received a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) for information contained in documents, meetings, communications and discussions in relation to the appointments of persons to, and arrangements for the creation, role and function of the Expert Group on the Leveson Report in Scotland.

You have an interest in the information which has been requested. A process through which the membership of this group was identified was for you, as First Minister, to seek the views of other party leaders in the Scottish Parliament on appointments to it. You wrote to all other party leaders and Margo MacDonald in this regard, seeking nominations. Correspondence in question is from December 2012.

I am writing to ask you for your views on whether this information should be disclosed before we make a decision on the request. Please note that this consultation is a courtesy, not a statutory obligation, and you do not have a veto on disclosure of the information. Under the terms of FOISA, the decision on whether or not to release the information is for the Scottish Government alone. However, we will take account of your views.

I should also explain that we can withhold information only if an exemption under FOISA applies to that information and, where applicable, the public interest in disclosure is not outweighed by the public interest in upholding the exemption. You can find detailed information about FOISA on our website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/about/foi>, or on the Scottish Information Commissioner's website at: <http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/home/ScottishInformationCommissioner.asp>.

In order to ensure that we meet our statutory duty to respond to the request within 20 working days of receiving it, I must ask for your views by close of business on 9 August.

Thanks  
[Redacted]



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

RECEIVED 06 APR 2017

**R THON ALEX SALMOND MP  
GORDON**

**Paul Wheelhouse MP**

Minister for Business Innovation and Energy Scottish Ministers  
St Andrews House Regent Road Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Our ref:

29th March 2017

Dear Paul,

**Subject: [redacted]**

I attached an introductory letter from the above company, one of the partners, [redacted], is a constituent of mine. I met with both gentlemen in February and learned of their proposals for a processing unit which would utilise existing feedstock (fuel) from the Sullom Voe Terminal.

On the face of it, this looked like a very worthwhile project and I wondered if you would be interest in meeting with them to learn more and offer advice/ direction. They are willing to meet you in Edinburgh and I don't think my presence is essential unless you think it advisable.

Please let me know if you would like my office to arrange a mutually convenient time of whether your office will take this forward. Likewise if this is something you think would be better directed to another member, please let me know and I will forward.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Yours for Scotland,

[ALEX.SALMOND.MP@PARLIAMENT.UK](mailto:ALEX.SALMOND.MP@PARLIAMENT.UK)

Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy Paul Wheelhouse MSP

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP House Of Commons LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: Our ref:

8 May 2017

Dear Alex

Thank you for sharing the introductory letter from [redacted], highlighting their intentions to develop a processing unit utilising existing feedstock from the Sullom Voe Terminal.

I understand that this project is still in the very early stages of development, but I am pleased to understand that [redacted] have already held early discussions with Highlands and Islands Enterprise Agency, and understand that they have been asked to submit a formal proposal for project development in Scotland which can then be considered.

At this stage in the proposal's development, I would encourage [redacted] to continue with that dialogue in order to explore all possibilities at this stage. I have asked Highlands and Islands Enterprise to keep me updated with how these discussions are progressing, but I would of course, be happy to meet [redacted] representatives once the project is at a suitable point in its development.

I would be pleased if you would share my correspondence with [redacted], and wish [redacted] success in this initiative.

Paul Wheelhouse



St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Sent: 11 February 2017 11:00

To: Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Subject: [redacted]

Dear Shona,

Please see below a letter from and my reply to [Redacted] gravely ill with [redacted].

I met [redacted]. Is there anything which can be done to license the use of cannabinoid oil to potentially ease the suffering of [redacted] and other people with this condition?

I have explained to [redacted] my understanding of the position and agreed to campaign on the matter at Westminster. However, could you write to the family directly and give the correct position from the point of view of the Scottish Government.

In the circumstances I would appreciate if this can be treated as a matter of great urgency.

Yours for Scotland,

Alex Salmond MP

"[redacted]"



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

RECEIVED 10 FEB 2017  
/

RT HON ALEX SALMOND MP  
GORDON

Shona Robison MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport  
St Andrews House Regent Road Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Our ref: [redacted]  
8 February 2017

Dear Shona,

[Redacted]

I write to you on behalf of my abovementioned constituent regarding alcohol advertising in Cinemas.

I am informed by my constituent that in the "Alcohol - Youth Commission on Alcohol - Response Recommendations" (<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/924/0103772.pdf>) paper it is cited that on 9th August 2009 you wrote to the then Secretary of State for Health, Rt Hon Andrew Lansley, "seeking confirmation that the commitment by the previous UK Government to commission a review of the current evidence on potential harm to children and young people from alcohol advertising. . .". My constituent would be grateful for an update on this as [redacted] believes it is unclear what action was taken to further this commitment.

I look forward to your response, the contents of which I will share with my constituent. Yours for Scotland,

Alex Salmond MP

Minister for Public Health and Sport Aileen Campbell MSP  
Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba



E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP House Of Commons LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: [redacted]:

21 March 2017

Dear Alex

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 2017, on behalf of your constituent, [redacted] regarding alcohol advertising in cinemas. I am replying as the issue raised in your letter falls within my portfolio.

As you will be aware, parts of the control of advertising are reserved to Westminster and, as such, the Scottish Government has pressed the UK Government on a number of occasions to do more to protect children and young people from exposure to alcohol advertising. To date, the UK Government has not responded to these calls and it is an issue I will continue to press.

In the absence of cooperation from the UK Government, the Scottish Government has since asked Alcohol Focus Scotland (AFS) to establish a virtual network of alcohol advertising experts to provide current advice on how Scotland could reduce the impact of advertising on children and young people. AFS published the group's report last month and Health Ministers will be considering its recommendations as part of our Alcohol Framework refresh which will be published in the summer.

**AILEEN CAMPBELL**

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH 13DG [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs  
Fiona Hyslop MSP

Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot



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Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP House Of Commons LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Our ref:  
6 May 2017

Dear Alex

Thank you for your email on the 12th of April attaching correspondence from [redacted] inviting me to meet with [redacted] to explore opportunities for Scotland to join the Fair Saturday Festival, including a planned concert at the Guggenheim Museum.

In my reply I have advised [redacted] that regrettably I will be unable to meet the Fair Saturday Team in [redacted] at this time. I am however supportive of the Fair Saturday approach and am keen to explore its potential further.

In a subsequent email on the 3rd of May, [redacted] has confirmed that [redacted] will be visiting Edinburgh on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May for a meeting at the Scottish Parliament and therefore I have suggested that this provides us with an ideal opportunity for [redacted] to meet with my officials to follow up on the presentation on the 17th of March, discuss opportunities such as the Guggenheim Museum concert and also agree the next steps with a view to Scotland participating in the Fair Saturday Festival for St Andrew's Day 2017.

I have asked my officials to keep me regularly updated on progress.

FIONA HYSLOP

St Andrew 's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG



[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

[REDACTED]

R T H O N . A L E X S A L M O N D

**Keith Brown MSP**  
**Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work**  
*via email:* [CabSecEJFW@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecEJFW@gov.scot)

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Keith,

You may remember that last year you kindly visited [REDACTED]. As you will recall, the issue was whether salt on the overbridge as part as the new Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route would cause problems to the nursery plants at [REDACTED]. You were hopeful at that stage that a bit of proper negotiation and debate between [REDACTED] representatives and Transport Scotland officials would lead to an equitable settlement. Alas, this has not been the case.

One of the longstanding difficulties in resolving this issue has been that the level of salt contamination has been a matter of conjecture because the road was not finished and winter had not yet come. Now, as they say in Game of Thrones, winter has come, and low and behold [REDACTED] worst fears have been realised.

The salt spray has not been, as Transport Scotland and various contractors had previously suggested, been mitigated by the tree screen or distance travelled but has indeed contaminated large parts of [REDACTED] property. Now that this fact is known and established, I would be so grateful if you would use your good offices to introduce some common sense and natural justice into this matter and encourage a reasonable settlement.

As you understand and as I have explained to [REDACTED], I have no direct locus in this matter and have passed on this latest letter to my successor as MSP for Aberdeenshire East, Ms Gillian Martin.

Compliments of the season,

*Yours for Scotland*

[REDACTED]

Rt Hon. Alex Salmond

42 MARKET STREET, ELLON, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB41 9JD  
ALEX@ALEXSALMOND.SCOT

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work  
Keith Brown MSP



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Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP  
House Of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: [REDACTED]  
Our ref: [REDACTED]

6 April 2017

Dear Alex

**Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie to Tipperty Project (AWPR/B-T)**

Thank you for your letter dated 21 February 2017 outlining the concerns raised by your constituent, [REDACTED] regarding the AWPR/B-T project.

Aberdeen Roads Limited (ARL), as contractor for the project, is responsible for the funding, final design, construction and subsequent maintenance of the completed scheme for a period of 30 years on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. The main construction works are now well underway implementing the plans that have been agreed during statutory procedures.

As is usual for Public Private Partnership contracts, it is ARL's responsibility to fund the construction of the project. Once sections of the project are available and open to traffic, Ministers pay a unitary charge over the period of the contract. There has been no change to value, or duration of, unitary charge payments since Contract Award in December 2014.

Transport Scotland continues to work with ARL and stakeholders, including utility providers, to deliver this major infrastructure project. Once opened to traffic, the AWPR/B-T is expected to cut journey times across Aberdeen by up to half at peak times, provide much improved journey time reliability, and enable local authorities to develop public transport solutions.

In order to accurately address all of your constituent's concerns regarding the workforce and utility diversions, it would be appreciated if your constituent could provide further detail directly to ARL. Further details can be provided to the contractor by telephone on 0800 058 8350, or by email - [enquiries@aberdeenroads.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdeenroads.com). Alternatively, queries may be directed to Transport Scotland for investigation. Details should be submitted to the Administration Team in the first instance via email at [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work  
Keith Brown MSP



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Rt Hon Alex Salmond  
42 Market Street  
Ellon  
Aberdeenshire  
AB41 9JD

Our ref: [REDACTED]

9 January 2018

*Dear Alex,*

**ABERDEEN WESTERN PERIPHERAL ROUTE – [REDACTED]**

Thank you for your letter dated 12 December 2017 regarding [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] in relation to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR).

Since our meeting last year things have moved on in this case with the completion and opening of the [REDACTED] side road overbridge and, as discussed at our meeting, the submission in May 2017 of a claim for compensation from [REDACTED] land agent. Since May the District Valuer's Office have been working with [REDACTED] agent to assess and move the claim forward. To date the District Valuer has not received a claim in relation to damage resulting this year from salt spray.

It has always been the case that this claim would not be able to be fully assessed until the opening of the [REDACTED] overbridge and the effects on the [REDACTED] could be recorded and assessed. As you will be aware there were a number of expert reports commissioned by both [REDACTED] and Transport Scotland and no agreement could be reached as to the envisaged damage that could occur. Ultimately the District Valuer will make a recommendation on this case of the appropriate level of compensation due for the land taken and any injurious affection to the business.

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
www.gov.scot





RECEIVED 27 FEB 2017

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

R T H O N A L E X S A L M O N D M P  
G O R D O N

**Mr Keith Brown MSP**  
Minister for Transport & Veterans  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Our ref: [REDACTED]

21<sup>st</sup> February 2017

Dear Keith,

[REDACTED]

I was contacted last week by my above named constituent who met with my staff and with whom you met last year at [REDACTED] premises regarding the AWPR, the works of which were impacting negatively on [REDACTED] business.

[REDACTED] raised a number issues with my staff regarding the AWPR which are apparently being discussed locally by the community. [REDACTED] has first-hand knowledge of some of those issues and has been told the remainder from a number of other sources. [REDACTED] is of the opinion that the Scottish Government should be aware of what is being discussed.

I have therefore enclosed a copy of the notes provided by [REDACTED] for your information and consideration.

I would appreciate if you could provide me with some comment on this matter and reply in a manner that I can share with [REDACTED]

Public Engagement Unit

T: 0131-244 4000  
E: CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot

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Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP  
42 Market Street  
Ellon  
ABERDEENSHIRE  
AB41 9JD

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Your ref: AS/KT/AS4125  
Our ref: 2017/0007686  
2 March 2017

Dear Rt Hon Salmond

Thank you for your invitation to Fergus Ewing received on 2 March 2017.

Ministers aim to attend as many meetings or events as the Ministerial diary allows. Your kind invitation will receive careful consideration and we aim to reply within 20 working days.

Yours sincerely

Public Engagement Unit

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport  
Shona Robison MSP



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

[Redacted]

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Your ref: [Redacted]  
Our ref: [Redacted]  
April 2017

Thank you for your letter of [Redacted] on behalf of your constituent [Redacted] with which you have attached a copy of [Redacted] correspondence that raises some concerns about the length of time [Redacted] has waited to receive an appointment to see a consultant within NHS Grampian.

First of all I was very concerned to read some of the information which was set out in [Redacted] correspondence around this appointment and can fully appreciate the anxiety and frustration that this may have caused - for your constituent to have to wait 30 weeks for an appointment is totally unacceptable in a person centred NHS. Although the Scottish Government sets the strategic policy for the NHS in Scotland, operational matters such as organising appointments and scheduling admissions is, in the first instance the responsibility of the relevant NHS Board in this case NHS Grampian.

I can assure you and your constituent, that this Government is wholly committed to ensuring all patients have swift and safe access to the full range of services they need from the NHS in Scotland. To help deliver this the Scottish Government has set a standard that 95% of patients should wait no more than 12 weeks for a first outpatient consultation. Within this target however the timing of any appointment will be based upon the clinical need of each individual patient to ensure that those patients with a more urgent need are seen first – quite appropriately, a patient's place on a waiting list is determined by clinical priority.

I was of course sorry to hear that at one stage as a result of [Redacted] wait your constituent had considered the option of possibly seeking [Redacted] treatment on a private basis. Whilst all patients have the right, at any time to exercise their choice and to use the services available in the independent healthcare sector it is entirely for them to decide whether having a private consultation and funding it themselves is the right thing to do. However our expectation is that all patients should be seen in a timely manner.

As a result of some of the concerns you have raised on [Redacted] behalf my officials approached NHS Grampian to obtain some information on your constituent's exceptionally long wait and the Board have advised that at present their Orthopaedic department, has considerable challenges and in particular the demand for outpatient appointments and treatment is under significant pressure exceeding the Boards capacity to see all patients within required timescales.

The Board have indicated that they are endeavouring to reduce the waiting times for orthopaedic patients and confirmed that two new orthopaedic theatres are now operational, bringing the total to six theatres currently being used solely for orthopaedic surgery at Woodend Hospital. The Board have recruited and appointed four additional consultants over the last 2 years and confirmed these consultants are also carrying out additional clinics in the evenings and at weekends which has resulted in the waiting time for an orthopaedic outpatient appointments being reduced. NHS Grampian has provided a reassurance that they are doing everything they can in order to reduce such long waits. The Board are very sorry for the impact that this delay has had in your constituent's own case and they have passed on their apologies to [Redacted] for any distress caused.

The Board have also advised they have started a new initiative in November which saw the introduction of a GP being employed within the Orthopaedic Department who is conducting a 1 year pilot looking into ways to reduce the number of patients referred into this specialty. Having undertaken advanced training in orthopaedics, I am informed that this GP is ideally placed to advise and guide other GP colleagues on the management of patients with musculoskeletal pain or conditions that do not require a surgical intervention. In addition, NHS Grampian confirmed they will run this pilot and measure outcomes to see if this model reduces the number of referrals by managing the demand for orthopaedics in new and more innovative ways.

Furthermore, you may also wish to be aware that the Scottish Government are investing £200 million to create a network of new elective centres across Scotland – including in Aberdeen. These centres will enable people to be treated more quickly for planned surgery like hip and knee operations and the facilities will help the NHS meet increasing demand while easing the pressure of unplanned and emergency treatment. This will of course not be of great benefit to your constituent, but it is anticipated this will have a significant impact on reducing waiting times for patients in the future.

I hope that my reply provides some assurance that NHS Grampian is actively attempting to address the current capacity issues within their Orthopaedic services and is helpful to both you and your constituent.

**SHONA ROBISON**

Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy  
Paul Wheelhouse MSP



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

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP

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Your ref: [redacted]  
Our ref:

17 January 2017

Dear Alex

Thank you for your letter of 7 December 2016 to Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution on behalf of your constituent [redacted] regarding [redacted] complaint to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) on possible credit card insurance fraud. As the Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy, the financial services sector falls within my portfolio and I have been asked to respond.

Firstly, I want to say that, I am sincerely sorry to hear of [redacted] concerns. However, the regulation of financial services, including credit card services is a matter, that is, currently, reserved to the UK Government. Scottish Ministers are unable to intervene in the commercial decisions made by financial services companies or comment on individual complaints.

However, if [redacted] feels that [redacted] complaint has not been resolved to [redacted] satisfaction, I would suggest that [redacted] should contact the FCA complaints team on 020 7066 9870 or in writing to Financial Conduct Authority, 25 The North Colonnade, London E14 5HS and they will advise on how best to take the complaint further.

If [redacted] has not already done so, then [redacted] may wish to contact the Financial Ombudsman Service regarding [redacted] original complaint against MBNA. The Ombudsman can be contacted on 0800 023 4567 or in writing to - The Financial Ombudsman Service, Exchange Tower, London, E14 9SR.

Once again, I am sorry that I am unable to provide more assistance to your constituent on this matter, but I very much hope that [redacted] is able to resolve the matter with the help of the Ombudsman of the Financial Conduct Authority.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Wheelhouse**

**HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA**

**R T H O N A L E X S A L M O N D M P  
G O R D O N**

**Mr Humza Yousaf MSP**

**Minister for Transport and the Islands** St. Andrew's House, Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dear Humza,

**[Redacted] - on demand car-pooling launch in Scotland**

At the end of last year, my office was contacted by [redacted], Head of Business and Commercial at [redacted] car-pooling service, [redacted].

In short, [redacted] is a transport solution that combines ride-sharing and car-sharing into a single service. Users are able to rent an electric vehicle for free, as long as they are willing to take other passengers with them that go the same direction. These passengers then pay a fee close to the cost of public transportation. The service relies on mobile app technology and self-improving algorithms to pair users together.

[redacted] is very keen to meet with the Scottish Government to discuss the potential launch of [redacted] in a Scottish city, with Glasgow marked as the initial favourite for this service. I have attached the brochure and [redacted] correspondence with my office to this letter. You can also find [redacted] contact details below.

**[redacted]**

**Mobile:** [redacted]

**Address:** [redacted]

**Email:** [redacted]

I would appreciate it if you or your office could review [redacted] concept and consider meeting [redacted] at some point later this year. If you require further information, please let my office know. Yours for Scotland

Alex Salmond MP

Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy  
Paul Wheelhouse MSP



Scottish Government  
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Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP  
House Of Commons  
LONDON  
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Your ref: AS/IZ  
Our ref: 2017/0006270

13 March 2017

Dear Alex

Thank you for your letters of 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February regarding the Beauty - Blackhillock - Kintore reinforcement.

As you have noted the National Grid Network Options Assessment (NOA) published on 30<sup>th</sup> January recommends that development of the line does not proceed in 2017/18, because it is no longer the optimal network solution. I have instructed my officials to continue to liaise with National Grid to ensure we are fully appraised of the analysis that lies behind their recommendations.

While I understand public concerns about the impacts of overhead lines, and have recently had a similar experience within my own regional constituency, there is a balance that must be struck between the costs and benefits of the construction of different types of transmission infrastructure, necessary to achieve Scotland's ambitious renewable energy targets.

It is the role of SHE-Transmission, National Grid and Ofgem to explore routing and engineering options in line with their license obligations to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical network. Those options may include overhead lines, undergrounding or subsea cables, but it is also open to them to determine that it is more efficient to make constraint payments to generators than reinforce the network. An outcome that has the potential to stymie the aspirations set out in the Scottish Government's draft Energy Strategy published last month.

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
www.gov.scot



As you are aware, powers over electricity networks are reserved to the UK Government, however the recent members business motion on 7 February in the Scottish Parliament highlighted a motion passed in the Welsh Assembly in January, that there should be a preference within the planning system for underground cables or alternatives rather than electricity pylons in any new or current developments in Wales by the National Grid.

While I have sympathy for this call, and sympathy with the concerns you raise on behalf of your constituents, I want to reassure you that Scottish Planning policy does state that consideration should be given to underground grid connections where possible. While it is true that both undergrounding and subsea cabling are both considerably more costly than overhead lines, and can, themselves, create environmental impacts that should be fully taken into account. I am particularly keen to ensure that all such options are given appropriate consideration, especially when overland routes affect sensitive landscapes on receptions.

I also want to stress that I and the Scottish Government are fully committed to community consultation and Scottish Ministers require that any application for electricity infrastructure from transmission companies provides detailed evidence of community consultation. I expect consultations to be meaningful and any evidence of consultation must also demonstrate how this has informed the preferred options and clearly explain what mitigation measures have been identified to address local community concerns.

I listened carefully to members during the debate in the chamber and have undertaken to reflect with my officials on the issues raised in relation to planning policy and the potential impacts of a change and I am grateful to you for raising your own concerns on behalf of your constituents.

Paul Wheelhouse