

## Annex A

**[Redacted]**

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**From:** [Redacted] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 16 December 2020 14:11  
**To:** Public Engagement Unit  
**Subject:** FW: A96 Dualling

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** MICASE

AO - [Redacted]

Hi

For Micase please – MR

Many thanks

[Redacted]

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**From:** [\[Redacted\]](#) **On Behalf Of** Mountain E (Edward), MSP  
**Sent:** 16 December 2020 09:49  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <[CabSecTIC@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecTIC@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** A96 Dualling

Dear Michael

**A96 Dualling**

I would be very grateful if you could let me know the results of the Public Inquiry into the dualling of the A96 around Nairn and when this will be made public.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

**Edward Mountain MSP** | Highlands and Islands Region

**Email:** [edward.mountain.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:edward.mountain.msp@parliament.scot)  
**Parliamentary Office:** M3.18, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP (Tel: 0131 348 6143)  
**Regional Office:** 10 Drummond Street, Inverness, IV1 1QD (Tel: 01463 230777)

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

Edward Mountain MSP  
[Redacted]

Our Reference: 202000127802  
Your Reference: A96 Dualling

7 January 2021

Dear Edward ,

### **A96 Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn bypass)**

Thank you for your email dated 16 December 2020 with regards to the A96 Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn bypass) scheme.

As you are aware, following the publication of draft Orders for the scheme, a significant number of representations, including objections, were received and, as a result, a Public Local Inquiry was held to consider objections received and not withdrawn. Whilst the Inquiry itself was concluded on 20 November 2018, closing submissions by parties were not completed until 25 January 2019. Because of the number of parties involved in this case and the complexity of the issues being raised, two Reporters were appointed to examine the proposals and report to Scottish Ministers. Over 150 parties commented on the draft Orders with a mixture of statutory and non-statutory objectors. The Reporters have submitted their report to the Scottish Ministers for determination and this remains under active consideration.

Delivery of the scheme itself can only commence if it is approved under the relevant statutory procedures and thereafter a timetable for its progress can be set in line with available budgets.

I hope this is of assistance.

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[Redacted]

**Michael Matheson**

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**[Redacted]**

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**From:** Public Engagement Unit  
**Sent:** 09 February 2021 17:55  
**To:** Transport Scotland Secretariat  
**Subject:** FW: Nairn By pass

**Categories:** MiCase

Hello

One for you.

Thanks

[Redacted]  
Public Engagement Unit  
1E.10 St Andrew's House  
CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Redacted] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 01 February 2021 16:23  
**To:** Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Nairn By pass

Hi

DR please,

Many thanks

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 01 February 2021 15:23  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Re: Nairn By pass

Dear Michael

Recently I have attended meetings of constituents in Nairn and discussed the issue of the by pass with many people in Nairn. It is fair to say that there is a widespread concern that there has been a long period of time since the public hearings were completed. The Reporters considered all representations made and submitted their report to the Scottish Ministers for determination on 17 October 2019

There is therefore some scepticism about our promises to deliver the by pass, and I wanted - and was tasked - with writing to you in order to convey these. I imagine that this will not come as a surprise.

I would ask if there is any prospect of finalising your decision on the reporters recommended course of action prior to purdah. I have not been privy to the reporters findings. But I assume that they have been with you for a while, and that the period of advice you need from Transport Scotland on these matters has passed.

If a decision were taken, for example, to approve the preferred route, then that would come as a huge boost to the people in my constituency who have, alongside myself, sought and campaigned for a by pass for decades now.

They have shown great patience and forbearance . But others, intent to mischief make are now gaining currency, whilst I have of course emphasised that the Scottish Government support for this project is clear and determined.

I would be extremely grateful if I may have a short discussion with you around these matters to see if any further progress can be made this side of purdah. I would be happy to discuss with you yourself if that helps.

Kind regards,

Fergus Ewing MSP  
Member of Scottish Parliament for Inverness and Nairn Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary  
for Rural Economy

Office of Fergus Ewing MSP, 112 Church Street, Inverness, IV1 1EP

Telephone: 01463 713 004

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**From:** Public Engagement Unit  
**Sent:** 08 February 2021 14:46  
**To:** Transport Scotland Secretariat  
**Subject:** FW: A9/A96 Dualling

**Categories:** [Redacted], MiCase

Hello

Grateful if you could take forward please.

Thanks

[Redacted]

Public Engagement Unit  
1E.10 St Andrew's House

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



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** 08 February 2021 14:43  
**To:** Scottish Ministers  
**Subject:** A9/A96 Dualling

Our ref: DR/DM/4975

Dear Cabinet Secretary

### **Dualling of the A9 and A96**

Having a keen interest in road safety, I was somewhat concerned to read from two different sources, that plans to dual the A9, which was supposed to be completed by 2025, may now in fact be delayed until 2030. More concerning is that the dualling of the A96 due to be completed by 2030, may now be downsized or delayed indefinitely.

I have been contacted by constituents who have also read these reports and what seems to have taken everyone by surprise is the fact that year on year the SNP Government have assured all stakeholders, including the motoring public, that both upgrades were on target and would be met.

In view of these reports can you confirm that the A9 dualling programme will be completed by the target date of 2025 and the A96 by the target date of 2030, as both these routes have seen far more serious or fatal road collisions than most other routes in Scotland.

Kind regards

Douglas



**Douglas Ross MP**

Member of Parliament for Moray

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*Enclosures:*



## **MURDO FRASER MSP** Mid Scotland & Fife

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

February 8, 2021.

### **Concern over future of A9 dualling programme**

Dear Michael,

I am writing to you concerning the future of Transport Scotland's A9 dualling programme.

It has been brought to my attention that the Scottish Government has removed consideration of the project to dual the A9 between Perth and Inverness from its Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR), despite Transport Scotland telling MSPs that the review would consider the future of the scheme.

If this is the case, it would appear that the project faces likely delays and thus would not meet the Scottish Government's pledge to dual the road by 2025. At present, one of the 11 sections of the A9 dualling scheme has been completed with another to follow shortly.

It would be a massive blow for those of us who have campaigned for the dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness to be told that the project is either on hold or may face delays in reaching its targeted completion date.

Can you please confirm what the exact position is with the project? I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

**Murdo Fraser MSP**  
***Member for Mid Scotland & Fife (Scottish Conservatives)***

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Murdo Fraser MSP  
murdo.fraser.msp@parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202100152875  
Your Reference: A9 Dualling

4 March 2021

Dear Murdo,

## **A9 Dualling Perth to Inverness**

Thank you for your letter of 8th of February regarding the A9 Dualling Perth to Inverness.

I can confirm that the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) is considering in detail where we will need to invest in our strategic transport network for the next 20 years to achieve the vision, aims and outcomes of our National Transport Strategy. This is different to our current committed infrastructure programme, which continues to include the A9 Dualling programme.

We are the first administration to commit to dualling the A9 and we remain absolutely committed to completing this programme. This ambitious programme is a significant undertaking which requires careful, in-depth planning and design to ensure that we deliver the right scheme and keep impacts on the environment to the absolute minimum. The Scottish Government continues to invest in this programme with work well underway.

It is particularly pleasing to confirm that Transport Scotland has now started procurement of the construction contract for the next section of A9 Dualling between Tomatin to Moy. Once complete, the scheme will provide nearly 20 miles of continuous dual carriageway to the south of Inverness, allowing safer, more reliable and shorter journey times. More immediately, this investment will provide a vital boost to the construction industry as we support its recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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It is expected that following a robust procurement process, the contract will be awarded in the second half of 2022. Meanwhile, ground investigation works, which are a key step towards construction of this section, are planned to commence as soon as possible over the coming months.

Turning to the remainder of the A9 programme. Although the design and development process has been somewhat protracted by the impacts of COVID-19, we are continuing to ensure that local communities have their chance to input into the final design. We are also engaging with stakeholders and the construction industry to help finalise a procurement strategy that will allow us to progress the remaining sections. We expect this process to conclude in summer 2021 when we will be able to provide an update on next steps towards delivery of this important programme.

Contrary to some media reporting which has unfortunately misunderstood the position, this market consultation is a very clear demonstration of our full commitment to the A9 Dualling and our equally strong commitment to good governance and responsible use of public funds.

It is imperative that we continue to explore opportunities to take forward elements of the route as they become ready to construct, as we have recently confirmed. However, we must do so in a way that allows the market to deliver these complex schemes whilst managing impacts to the travelling public and providing good value for money. The ongoing engagement exercise is therefore crucial to our next stages of programming and will allow us to determine the most efficient delivery model for the programme.

Dualling the A9 underlines our commitment to connecting Scotland's cities with a high quality transport system that will generate economic growth. When complete this ambitious programme will bring many benefits to local communities, businesses and road users living, travelling and working along the route including reduced journey times, improved journey time reliability, improved road safety and opportunities for active travel.

I trust this clarifies our position.

[Redacted]

**Michael Matheson**

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CA/LJC

26 February 2021

Mr M Matheson  
Cabinet Secretary  
for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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Councillor Chris Ahern  
**Scottish Conservative**



Dear Mr Matheson

It has come to my attention that the A9 Dualling project is under review and there is local concern that the project may be extended and or cease.

I would like to express deepest concerns if this were indeed the case and that this would be a backward step and a break of promise to the residents and visitors of Perth, and Perth and Kinross.

Perth, being perfectly situated, is the gateway for all areas of Scotland and this promised betterment for the A9 is a long time coming.

The lockdown restrictions have put many businesses under immense pressure and, with the hope of these necessary constraints being eased for the spring and summer months, many city centre businesses are looking to increased visitors from staycations to boost an already difficult situation. The betterment of the road between Perth and Inverness has never been more important.

Can the Cabinet Secretary please advise me of the issues surrounding the review? The timeframe for the review and for an indication of how this will affect the local plans for the CrossTay Link Road?

Thank you in advance for your swift reply.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Councillor Chris Ahern  
Ward 12, Perth City Centre