

**Annex B – Extracts from Briefings to the Cabinet Secretary for
Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity**

Extracts from emails dated 20 November 2020 to 30 November 2020

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

Sent: 30 November 2020 14:43

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

Cc: Graham A (Alasdair) <Alasdair.Graham@transport.gov.scot>; Shedden L (Lee) (TRANS)

<Lee.Shedden@transport.gov.scot>; Irvine A (Alison) <Alison.Irvine@transport.gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: immediate - 2015 Infrastructure Investment Plan progress reports to PAPLS - handling of A96 programme

Hi [Redacted],

Mr Matheson has commented -

Content, reactive lines have a typo in the third para that need to be removed.

Many thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity – Michael Matheson

Scottish Government | St Andrews's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: [Redacted]

| **Mob:** [Redacted] | Email: CabSecTIC@gov.scot

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From: [Redacted]

Sent: 25 November 2020 18:02

To: Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

Cc: Graham A (Alasdair) ; Shedden L (Lee) (TRANS) ; Irvine A (Alison) ; Chief Executive Transport Scotland ; [Redacted]

Subject: immediate - 2015 Infrastructure Investment Plan progress reports to PAPLS - handling of A96 programme

Cabinet Secretary

A96 Dualling Programme

Handling in forthcoming infrastructure investment plan (IIP) pipeline update

Further to Rachel Gwyon's briefing of 20 November (attached and email below), [Redacted]. And replace that with the following:

"The Scottish Government is committed to dualling the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen. Delivery of each section of the dualling programme can only commence if it is approved under the relevant statutory procedures and thereafter a timetable for its progress can be set."

[Redacted]

"The Scottish Government remains committed to dualling the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen underlining its commitment to connecting Scotland's cities with a high quality transport system that will generate sustainable economic growth.

"This is a significant undertaking which requires careful, in-depth planning and design to ensure that we deliver the right schemes which when complete will bring many benefits to local communities, businesses and road users living, travelling and working along the route. These include reduced journey times, improved journey time reliability and, crucially, improve road safety for all users.

"The Scottish Government continues to invest in this ambitious programme with design work is well underway. On the Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) section, Reporters for the Public Local Inquiry have submitted their report to the Scottish Ministers for consideration. We are also making good progress on the section between Hardmuir and Fochabers with the development and assessment of the preferred option underway. Route options assessment work is also well underway on the section between east of Huntly and Aberdeen.

"Delivery of each section of the dualling programme can only commence if it is approved under the relevant statutory procedures and thereafter a timetable for its progress can be set. Our intention is that more detailed programme milestones will be provided in the IIP pipeline process in due course and once the outcome of the statutory consents process is known."

The Cabinet Secretary is asked to note the proposed update in the forthcoming IIP pipeline update which is due to be published by Scottish Government colleagues later this week and the proposed reactive lines to be deployed should questions be raised following publication.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: Gwyon R (Rachel) <Rachel.Gwyon@gov.scot>

Sent: 20 November 2020 17:21

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

Cc: Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for Justice <CabSecJustice@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport <CabSecHS@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: 2015 Infrastructure Investment Plan progress reports to PAPLS

[Redacted]

Advice on some issues to be aware of as we finalise the 2015 IIP major projects reports to PAPLS, aiming for issue next week.

The note updates on our proposed handling of the questions which have arisen. Health and Justice Cabinet Secretaries are copied for information, as are their officials with whom we have worked jointly on the way ahead.

All best

Rachel Gwyon
Scottish Government
Deputy Director, Infrastructure and Investment
(t) [Redacted]
(m) [Redacted]

Extract from attachment sent to Cabinet secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity from Rachel Gwyon dated 20 November 2020

We will stay in close touch with Transport Scotland colleagues as they finalise the nature and timing of A9 and A96 activities for the next 5 year period, to ensure that any future PAPLS pipeline reporting is realistically related to funded plans.

Extracts from emails dated 14 December 2020 and 16 December 2020

From[Redacted] > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

Sent: 16 December 2020 14:18

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

Cc: [Redacted]; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: Urgent - A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen - Preferred Option

Hi [Redacted],

Hi Matheson is content with the submission.

Many thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity – Michael Matheson

Scottish Government | St Andrews's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG | Tel: [Redacted] |

Mob: [Redacted] | Email: CabSecTIC@gov.scot

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From: [Redacted]

Sent: 14 December 2020 14:34

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

Cc: [Redacted]; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot> [Redacted]; Transport Scotland Directors <DLECONPTSD@transport.gov.scot> [Redacted]

Subject: Urgent - A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen - Preferred Option

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity,

URGENT

Please find attached a minute in respect of the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme.

We are seeking the Cabinet Secretary's agreement on the preferred option for the scheme and agreement with the communications strategy which includes communicating the preferred option to the public and interested parties at virtual exhibitions commencing on Monday 21 December 2020. Subject to approval, stakeholder invites are due to be issued on Friday 18 December 2020.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted]

Project Manager

Major Projects

T: [Redacted]

M: [Redacted]

transport.gov.scot

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



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[Redacted]
Project Manager
Major Projects
T: [Redacted]
M: [Redacted]
transport.gov.scot

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



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Extract from A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen DMRB Stage Route Option Assessment minute submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity on 14 December 2020

If the Cabinet Secretary is content to agree to the recommended preferred route option, we will share the outcome of the assessment through a virtual public exhibition, as is our usual practice. Generally the end of the DMRB Stage 2 assessment signals a transition into the development of the preferred route option (DMRB Stage 3) into a form sufficiently detailed to support the statutory process stages including draft orders and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. This next stage will allow us to start to refine any areas of the design that may give rise to landowner or stakeholder concerns and support that ongoing dialogue. The contractual arrangements are such that work can be accelerated or slowed depending on the budget allocation in 2021/22 and subsequent future years.

Financial Implications

Based on the DMRB Stage 2 assessment work the estimated total scheme cost range of the recommended preferred option is £820m - £995m at Q2 2018 prices (including risk and optimism bias, excluding VAT). This is the first time the estimated total scheme cost has been reported. The scheme costs and economics will be updated and refined as part of the subsequent DMRB Stage 3 detailed development and assessment of the preferred option prior to the publication of draft Orders. Progress on the DMRB Stage 3 assessment will depend on the allocation of funding from the 2021/22 budget and future spending reviews.

Email dated 28 January 2021

From: DG Economy <[DGEconomy@gov.scot](mailto:DG_Economy@gov.scot)>

Sent: 28 January 2021 17:58

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

Cc: Director of Budget and Public Spending <Directorofbudgetandpublicspending@gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; Shedden L (Lee) (TRANS) <Lee.Shedden@transport.gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: Budget 2021-22 - AO assurance note - TIC Portfolio

Cab Sec Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity,

Please see attached AO Assurance Note for your portfolio approved jointly by Chief Exec Transport Scotland and DG Economy.

Thanks

Liz Ditchburn
DG Economy

Extract from AO Assurance note sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity on 28 January 2021.

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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