

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team
Sent: 10 February 2023 15:41
To: [redacted]
Cc: TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team <TSS@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: FW: A9 202300342895

Hi,

One for you.

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Sent: 10 February 2023 12:50
To: TS Corporate Correspondence Support Team <TSS@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: FW: A9

Hi

Some correspondence for TS colleagues.

Thank you
[redacted]

[redacted] | Public Engagement Unit | 1E.10 St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG |
CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot



From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** First Minister
Sent: 10 February 2023 12:44
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: A9

OR please

[redacted]
Office of the First Minister
Scottish Government
5TH floor/St Andrews House/Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
Tel 0131-244-5214
Mobile [redacted]

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From: [redacted]

Sent: 10 February 2023 12:25

To: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: A9

First Minister

May I add my comments to the current A9 debate.

As finances are difficult and will be for some years to come, there is a need to re-focus the development of the A9.

Once a new budget has been prepared the first essential is to vastly improve the junctions such as the one at Birnam and Dunkeld - this needs to be done with great urgency. Then, depending on budget restraints, Some of the easier to dual sections can be attempted.

There needs to be a re-focus away from a 'full dual carriageway' to first 'drastically improve junctions'.

Yours, [redacted]

Sent with [redacted] secure email.

Major Projects
5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw,
Glasgow, G2 8LU
[redacted]



[redacted]
Email – [redacted]

Our ref:
202300342895

Date:
10 March 2023

Dear [redacted]

A9 Dualling Programme

Thank you for your email dated 10 February 2023, to the First Minister of Scotland, regarding the above project. As this is a matter for which Transport Scotland has responsibility, your enquiry has been passed to me to respond.

We can assure you that road safety is of paramount importance to Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government. The recent accidents on the A9 are tragic for everyone involved and our sympathies are with the families and friends of everyone affected by these events. We are working with Police Scotland and our Operating Companies to understand the circumstances of the accidents that have happened, however, as Police investigations are ongoing, we cannot comment on specific accidents.

Ministers have been clear that any road death is one too many and the recent trend of fatal accidents on the A9 is a very understandable concern. The Scottish Government is committed to achieving safer and sustainable road travel in Scotland now and in the future. This commitment has been set out in our Road Safety Framework to 2030 with the target to halve road deaths by 2030.

We have an ongoing programme of road safety improvements on the A9 and more widely across the Trunk Road network and are examining options for further measures that could improve A9 safety in advance of dualling works. A package of short-term measures has been identified, valued at £5 million, which is intended to promote safety on the A9 between Perth and Inverness.

Work on the first elements of this package has commenced and is progressing well and will continue into the two coming financial years. This includes enhancements to signing and road markings, with a particular focus on junctions where illuminated road studs and red ghost island surfacing is being installed, initially between Birnam and Dalguise, and installation of electronic signs to display safety messages between Perth and Inverness.

Improvements to the southbound exit slip road on the dual carriageway at Ballinluig and to the B9150 Newtownmore/Ralia junction further north are also nearing completion.

Furthermore, a road safety campaign targeting driver fatigue launched on 13 February and preparations for a drive on the left campaign are well underway ahead of a launch towards the end of March.

Next month the Minister for Transport will convene a stakeholder summit with car hire companies serving our main airports to discuss further work we can undertake with the sector to improve foreign drivers understanding of the A9.

As you may be aware, the Minister for Transport provided an update on the A9 Dualling Programme to Parliament on 8 February 2023, details of this statement can be found on our website at the following link: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/news/parliament-updated-on-a9-dualling-programme/>

The Scottish Government remains firmly committed to completing the dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness and has invested over £430m to date with road users already benefiting from the dualled sections between Kincaig and Dalraddy and Luncarty and the Pass of Birnam, which opened in September 2017 and August 2021 respectively.

The 2025 target date for completion of the full programme represented an ambitious challenge. It was also reliant on the timely and positive outcome of a range of factors such as completing public and stakeholder consultation; statutory approval processes; and assessment of market capacity; supply chain availability and availability of funding, all of which have been significantly impacted by the events mentioned by the Minister in her statement on 8 February. This has made the 2025 date unachievable.

Transport Scotland is urgently considering a range of different options to provide Ministers advice on the most efficient way in which to dual the remaining sections. Work to determine the most suitable procurement options for these sections is a complex exercise which looks at a number of factors including how the project can be delivered most efficiently by the industry, whilst minimising disruption to road users and helping to support economic recovery post-COVID. This work is expected to conclude in Autumn 2023 and an update on a renewed timescale for completion will be provided to the Scottish Parliament at that time.

I hope you find the above information helpful.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Policy Officer