



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

John Swinney MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment & Sustainable Growth
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

25 January 2012

Dear John

Active Travel

In 2011, the SNP manifesto contained a commitment to 'increase the proportion of transport spending that goes on low-carbon, active and sustainable travel'. It is with much disappointment that we now see that the first Budget Bill laid before this Parliament breaks this manifesto commitment as far as active travel is concerned.

The Government's current spending plans show that funding to enable more local journeys to be made on foot or by bike is still set to be cut by a third. This will make it much harder for Scotland to achieve its transition to a low carbon economy, decarbonise our transport sector and ensure 10% of all journeys are made by bicycle by 2020 - ambitions that we all support.

As parties that supported and strengthened the Scottish Climate Change Act in 2009, we have serious concerns about the Government's commitment to deliver the measures needed to make this Act a reality. A number of Parliamentary Committees have already expressed concern that the Government's spending plans are not aligned with Scotland's climate change ambitions. The Government have failed to listen to these warnings.

Committing public finances now to help meet our legally-binding emissions reduction targets will bring additional social, environmental and economic benefits. With a Government rightly focussed on preventative spend, we hope that Ministers recognise the benefits of active travel in preventing negative outcomes such as poor air quality, poor public health, congestion and road safety.

The Government have committed to the strongest climate change laws in the world, but unless we follow through on the Scottish Climate Change Act and actually reduce our

emissions, that commitment is left seeming hollow. We call on Ministers to commit to making true their manifesto commitment and increasing the proportion of transport funding for active travel - matching aspirations with action.

Yours sincerely

Claudia Beamish MSP
Scottish Labour

Jim Hume MSP
Scottish Liberal Democrats

Patrick Harvie MSP
Scottish Greens