

Your constituent may like to know that in this current year, the Scottish Government will invest almost £40 million in cycling and walking infrastructure across the country. This is at a time when the overall capital budget from Westminster has decreased by 26.6%. Indeed, this is the largest funding allocation ever – a significant step-change in funding levels. Of this, £19 million is allocated to Sustrans Scotland for Community Links projects creating walking and cycling infrastructure for everyday journeys. This funding has generated £25 million of match funding by local authorities and partners. Since 2007, an additional 215 miles of cycle paths have been built across Scotland, adding to the 2,000 miles already available for commuters and tourists.

In your constituent's email he refers to the recent speech made by John Swinney MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy, promising an additional £10 million next year for cycling and walking infrastructure. I can confirm that this additional funding has been identified in 2015/16 to support the delivery of improved cycling and walking infrastructure, and to support its use and help people make smarter travel choices. We will make further announcements on this funding in due course.

We have also allocated £8.2 million to local authorities this year for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets (CWSS) projects. As part of the grant offer, local authorities are requested to consider a minimum spend of 36%, and preferably above 50%, on cycling related projects. Local authorities are able to add to this funding from their own resources if cycling is a priority in their area. As local authorities are responsible for 94% of the roads in Scotland, I would encourage your constituent to write to his local councillors to ask what they are doing to integrate and improve cycling facilities in their local area.

I hope this information will reassure your constituent that cycling will continue to be a priority for this Scottish Government as we work in partnership with all stakeholders to achieve the shared vision of 10% of everyday journeys being made by bike by 2020, as set out in the refreshed Cycling Action Plan for Scotland.

Kind regards



**DEREK MACKAY**