

## Transport Policy

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Ms Emilia Hanna  
Friends of the Earth Scotland  
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Your ref:

Our ref:  
2016/0031645

Date:  
21 October 2016

Dear Ms Hanna,

Thank you for your email of 27 September 2016 to Derek Mackay MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution, regarding allocating 10% of the transport budget to active travel. The Cabinet secretary has asked that your email be passed to me for reply as I deal with cycling policy in Transport Scotland.

Firstly, I would like to reassure you that Scottish Government Ministers are very much committed to promoting sustainable and active travel and to achieving Scotland's vision for cycling that by 2020, 10% of everyday journeys will be made by bike, as outlined in the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) 2013.

Despite the overall capital budget from Westminster being reduced by 26% in the last spending review this Scottish Government has still invested record levels of funding in active travel of over £39 million in 2015/16, which Transport Minister, Humza Yousaf has committed to continue for the term of this parliament to 2021.

The majority of this investment is matched by local authorities and other partners to deliver high quality cycling and walking infrastructure to achieve lasting change and increase the number of people choosing to travel actively across all communities as part of their everyday lives.

Regarding your request for 10% of the transport budget to be invested in active travel projects, levels of transport spend cannot simply be based on percentage allocations for each transport mode. The overall transport budget must reflect existing contractual requirements, planned maintenance and upgrades and it would be wrong to arbitrarily allocate definite amounts of investment to any one mode.

It is also true that cycling and walking does bring health, environmental and financial benefits to both individuals and communities and should be seen as a healthy first choice for everyday journeys wherever possible to improve health and reduce carbon emissions.

That is why Scottish Government Ministers remain committed to working in partnership to achieve our shared vision and to invest over £39 million annually to 2021.

Also, the Scottish Government remains absolutely committed to meeting its world-leading Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets as established by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

In terms of air quality, the Cleaner Air for Scotland (CAFS) strategy sets out the phased approach required to develop measures, such as Low Emissions Zones, as part of the National Low Emission Framework (NLEF). We intend to publish the NLEF guidance later this year. Preparatory work on both the National Modelling Framework and National Low Emission Framework will be completed by mid-2017, with appraisal of sites across Scotland during mid to late 2017. Decisions on NLEF schemes across Scotland, such as Low Emission Zones (LEZ) and other related transport policy interventions will be taken by the end of 2018.

Inclusion of active travel options will also be taken into account when NLEF assessments are undertaken. Specific actions noted in NLEF (and CAFS) will be brought forward from late 2017 that will deliver on the ground benefits of a fully operational Low Emission Zone by the end of 2018, as outlined in the Government's pre-election manifesto commitment. This LEZ will support the evolution of subsequent NLEF schemes across Scotland toward and into 2020.

Many initiatives are already in place to develop and deploy effective transport measures to tackle air pollution, including cycling and walking schemes. The Scottish Government is continuing to explore with Transport Scotland and other partners how these can be developed and built on to ensure successful delivery of all the actions contained in the Cleaner Air for Scotland strategy.

I hope this information will reassure you that active travel will continue to be a priority for this Scottish Government as we work in partnership with all stakeholders to make Scotland a safer, healthier and more active nation.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Oliver.  
Transport Scotland.