

Email received by a Spokes member from Brice Crawford MSP [SNP]

Date: 23 February 2016 at 16:15:12 GMT

To:

Subject: RE: FW: Letter from your constituent XXX

Dear XXX

Thank you for your e-mail.

The Scottish Government and Transport Scotland are committed to encouraging healthier and greener modes of travel.

Overall investment in active travel was £39.2 million for 2015/16, to match 2014/15's record investment in cycling and walking. The Scottish Government is investing more than £1 billion to encourage people out of their cars and onto more sustainable and active modes and has invested over £134m in active travel since 2011. We have a vision to free Scotland from the damaging emissions of petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles by 2050 through the widespread adoption of ultra-low emission vehicles.

In November 2014, the Transport Minister launched the Active Travel Vision, which aims to encourage more people to walk and cycle for everyday shorter journeys. It focuses on areas such as infrastructure, transport integration, cultural and behaviour change, community ownership and planning.

Investment in Sustainable and Active Travel also includes just over £20 million of Scottish Government funding which will allow Sustrans Scotland to continue their work on new facilities – varying from short path links to schools and shops, to innovative initiatives which overcome significant barriers through the Community Links programme.

The Scottish Government 'remains committed to our shared vision of 10% of everyday journeys being made by bike by 2020 and in this financial year we committed a further GBP3.3 million to match last year's record investment in active travel.

"We have increased investment in active travel to GBP39.2 million, up from GBP22.95 million in 2013/14 at a time when our overall capital budget has decreased by 26%. Over and above this, behaviour change programmes through the smarter choices, Smarter Places programme are encouraging uptake of both sustainable and active travel."

In relation to the specific points you have made to me regarding the proposal to reallocate 1% of the £720 million budget for trunk roads to active travel to stop the 25% cut in the CWSS fund and provide additional funding for the Community Links Plus initiative, I have passed these on to the Deputy First Minister for his consideration. I will keep you informed once a response is received.

I hope this is of assistance,

Yours sincerely

Bruce Crawford MSP

MSP for Stirling

Sent: 22 February 2016 14:18

To: Crawford B (Bruce), MSP

Subject: Re: FW: Letter from your constituent XXX

Dear Mr. Crawford

Further to my e mail sent on the 4th of February, I have not had a substantive response to date and with the budget debate scheduled for the 24th of February I would like one.

Will my MSP be supporting the proposal to reallocate 1% of the £720 million budget for trunk roads to active travel? This reallocated funding would stop the 25% cut in the CWSS fund and provide additional funding for the Community Links Plus initiative avoiding all the other Community Links initiatives suffering a cut in funding to pay for it

I attach a copy of the parliamentary briefing on this proposal that Mr. Crawford should have received from other sources. Please let me know if Mr. Crawford would be able to speak in favour of this proposal during Wednesday's budget debate.

Yours sincerely

XXX

Stirling