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Dear Alison

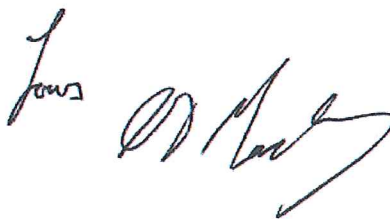
Thank you for your letter of 3 October 2016, regarding the First Minister's announcement on 8 August concerning post-Brexit spending, suggesting that a proportion of the funding should be allocated to capital investment projects to boost cycling and walking as a means of everyday travel.

Firstly, I agree with you that cycling and walking does bring health, environmental and financial benefits to both individuals and communities and should be seen as a healthy alternative to driving for cyclists and walkers of all ages and abilities.

I would also like to reassure you that this Scottish Government is fully committed to actively working in partnership with our stakeholders such as Sustrans Scotland to ensure infrastructure is delivered to the highest standard to make cycling a safe and realistic travel choice for everyday journeys wherever possible. This is why we are investing record levels of funding in active travel projects.

Further details of the Capital Acceleration Programme, including the projects to be supported by the initial £100 million of additional funding and details of funding for future years, will be announced in due course. Additionally, full and due consideration will be given to providing additional funding for active travel capital measures. Indeed successive Transport Ministers, including myself, have reiterated on a number of occasions that when funding becomes available that they would make the strongest case for that funding to be allocated to active travel.

I hope this information will reassure you that active travel will continue to be a priority for this Scottish Government to make Scotland a safer, healthier and more active nation.



**DEREK MACKAY**