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Mrs Holttum

### **HOLYROOD PARK – PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS HOLYROOD PARK**

Thank you for your email of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 with your plan of suggested pedestrian crossing points within Holyrood Park. Your email and plan has been passed on to myself from the Chief Executive's Office as I am one of the managers responsible for Holyrood Park.

I also wanted to thank you for allowing me some additional time to work with City of Edinburgh Council colleagues to respond to your query more fully and my apologies that this has taken longer than I had initially anticipated.

Within Historic Environment Scotland we are conscious that Holyrood Park serves a wide range of user-groups whose activities can, at times, conflict with each other. To try to satisfy the diverse range of user-groups and activities we do strive to strike a balance within our responsibilities to keep Holyrood Park as a protected, safe and enjoyable place.

Your email and suggestions are very timely as Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and City of Edinburgh Council, with joint-funding from Sustrans, are working together on a design for walking and cycling routes through Holyrood Park. These routes, between the park entrances at Holyrood Park Road, Royal Park Terrace and Queen's Park Avenue, will link into the wider walking and cycling network, the 'QuietRoutes' Network, that the Council is developing.

Due to the status of Holyrood Park, as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Property in Care and Site of Special Scientific Interest, the initial stages of this design require detailed discussion with key partners such as HES Heritage Management and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Initial plans have to take into consideration numerous factors; for example the Park's setting, heritage conservation, nature conservation, the Park's dark sky statement and the safety and welfare of all users.

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The design will aim to address various observations, suggestions and concerns previously raised by members of the public to HES & the Council.

Once proposed routes and draft designs are prepared, a wider public consultation will take place, similar to that carried out by the Council during other active travel projects.

When a final design is agreed, further funding for implementation will be sought.

I am familiar with the locations that you have highlighted on your suggested plan and can confirm that the aforementioned path designs will aim to address a number of the key crossing points that you have highlighted.

In addition the Park Management Team are currently considering options to alter the infrastructure on the High Road around the Hawse and review the infrastructure around Duddingston Lodge which would be for the benefit and welfare of all users.

The crossing points that you have identified around Cannongate / Calton Road / Abbeyhill are, I am afraid, out with the Park boundaries. I have, however made colleagues from the City of Edinburgh Council aware of your letter and suggestions. They can be contacted on – [ActiveTravel@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:ActiveTravel@edinburgh.gov.uk)

I shall ensure that your experience and observations are shared with all colleagues concerned to help further inform our decision-making process and hope that you will participate in any future public consultation concerning paths and crossings within the Park.

Yours sincerely,

*Martin A. A. Gray*

Martin Gray | Ranger & Visitor Services Manager