

Director of Finance

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Steven Whyte
Head of Finance
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Your Ref: SW/LI

30 April 2014

Dear Mr Whyte

Haudagain Junction Improvement

Thank you for your letter of 8 January in relation to the Haudagain Junction Improvement, the contents of which I note.

The Scottish Government has committed to commencing improvements to Haudagain following completion of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) currently estimated for spring 2018. The AWPR is predicted to reduce traffic levels on the existing A90 in the vicinity of Haudagain by around 20 per cent. It is important to await completion of the AWPR before commencing work at Haudagain to avoid making existing traffic congestion worse.

To underline that commitment, Haudagain is included in Transport Scotland's Motorway and Trunk Road Programme, which is published on Transport Scotland's website as well as in the Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan. We have already invested £3 million to commission a team of consultants to take forward the design of the scheme, with draft road orders on target for publication in summer 2015. Around 250 people attended the Haudagain public exhibitions held on 24 / 25 April, and attended by Keith Brown MSP Minister for Transport, to showcase the preferred option which further demonstrates this commitment.

The process we are following on Haudagain is identical to how we deliver, and have successfully delivered, new trunk roads all over Scotland. Design work must be completed to allow us to begin the statutory process, which includes acquiring the land needed to deliver the scheme.

Subject to satisfactory completion of the statutory process our programme indicates that Scottish Ministers will acquire the land required to construct the Haudagain Improvement in late 2017 / early 2018. Landowners including the local authority, will be compensated for any land or property in accordance with the compensation code

Yours sincerely

A thick black horizontal bar redacting the signature of Sharon Fairweather.

Sharon Fairweather