



Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE1428](#)

Main Petitioner: Councillor Douglas Philand

Subject: Improvements for the A83

Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to address the 4 key points which are currently impacting upon the communities along the A83 which are (1) issues relating to the Rest and Be Thankful; (2) pinch points at Inveraray and between Lochgilphead and Tarbert (Lochfyne); (3) safe crossing points at Ardrishaig and Tarbert (Lochfyne), and (4) formally trunk the road between Kennacraig and Campbeltown.

Background

The A83 is a trunk road for the 66 miles between Tarbet and the ferry port of Kennacraig and a local road for the 32 miles between Kennacraig and Campbeltown. Trunk roads are owned by Scottish Ministers and managed by Transport Scotland. The day to day maintenance of each trunk road is carried out by a Trunk Road Operating Company, in the case of the A83 this is [Scotland TranServ](#). Local roads are the responsibility of the relevant local authority, in this case Argyll and Bute Council.

The Rest and be Thankful is the summit of the pass on the A83 trunk road between Arrochar and Inveraray, an area that is particularly prone to landslips. The A83 has been closed at the Rest and be Thankful due to landslips in February 2012, December 2011, September 2009 and October 2007. The closure of the A83 at the Rest and be Thankful results in motorists having to take a lengthy diversion.

Scottish Government Action

Transport Scotland [announced](#) an investment of £1m to help tackle landslips at the Rest and be Thankful on 9 February 2012. This followed an [announcement](#) on 20 January 2012 of detailed investigations into longer term measures to prevent/mitigate landslips at the Rest and be Thankful and into removing pinch points and improving pedestrian safety along the A83. These investigations are expected to be complete by summer 2012. Further information on landslip monitoring and mitigation work taken by Transport Scotland at the Rest and be Thankful since 2007 is available [online](#).

Keith Brown MSP, Minister for Housing and Transport, indicated on 14 March 2011, in response to PQ S3W-40142, that "Scottish Ministers keep the trunk

road network under continual review. There are no plans to trunk the A83 road between Kennacraig and Campbeltown”.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not undertaken any substantive work on the improvement of the A83.

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