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2 October 2014

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 6 August on behalf of the Public Petitions Committee regarding Petition PE1098.

I thank the Committee for their most recent discussions on 5 August around the progress of this Petition and I am heartened that Members were encouraged by the agreement reached between the Scottish Government and the UK Government to progress this Order.

Further progress has been made since my last correspondence of 28 April and, as requested, I can confirm that a finalised version of the draft section 30(2) Order, along with the associated draft Explanatory Note, has been agreed with Department for Transport lawyers and is now with the Office of the Advocate General for their review. An Explanatory Memorandum has also been prepared and is currently being considered by Department for Transport officials.

For the purpose of clarity I should explain again that following this consideration of the draft by the Office of the Advocate General and UK Parliamentary Counsel, the draft Order will be scrutinised by Counsel to the UK Parliament's Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments before final Ministerial agreement is sought. The Order will then be laid in both Holyrood and Westminster.

Following approval from both Parliaments, the Order will be considered by Her Majesty's Privy Council, after which it will be made and come into force. The Committee will appreciate that Parliamentary time at Westminster is limited in a general election year, but we envisage that the Order will have completed its route through parliamentary processes as early as possible in 2015.



The Committee may also be interested to note that the Seatbelts on School Transport Working Group has been established and met on 12 June. The group is made up of a carefully selected range of road safety partners including CoSLA, Aberdeenshire Council, Confederation of Passenger Transport UK (CPT), Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), Association of Transport Coordinating Officers (ATCO), Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS), Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs), Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) and Scottish Government Education and Transport Policy officials. In collaboration with the legal and administrative processes taken to obtain the appropriate powers to legislate for seatbelts on dedicated school transport, this group is using its collective knowledge and expertise to navigate the practicalities and means by which this measure may be introduced. The group is due to meet again in the coming weeks to continue this work.

I hope that the Committee finds this information useful, and I will continue to furnish you with further information as and when developments are made, as the Committee deems necessary.

Kind regards

KEITH BROWN