



Department for  
**Transport**

From Mike Penning MP, Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State

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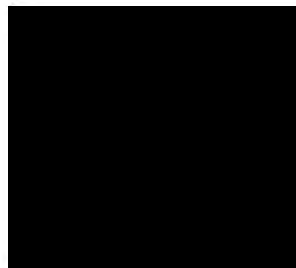
20 OCT 2011

*Dear David*

Thank you for your letter of 6 October in which you express concerns from the Public Petitions Committee that work to transfer certain ministerial functions regarding school transport to Scottish Ministers is not progressing with the urgency they might have expected.

Earlier this year I wrote to Keith Brown inviting our policy and legal teams to consider the detail of the functions that are to be transferred and discussions have taken place. These have focused on the identification of a suitable legal mechanism and whilst I agree that this work would not seem to be moving quickly, there is of course a need to give this careful consideration before we can move forward. We are currently awaiting a response from Transport Scotland and I understand that it is discussing options with Scottish Ministers. Once the legal mechanism has been identified and agreed, I expect matters to move forward more swiftly. Nevertheless, as the matter would be subject to debates in both UK and Scottish parliaments, I am sure you will appreciate this is unlikely to be a short process and would likely take up to 12 months to complete.

I hope this is helpful and reassures you that this matter is being progressed.



**MIKE PENNING**