



Department for **Transport**

From Mike Penning MP, Parliamentary
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David Stewart MSP
Convener of the Committee
c/o Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 29 March in relation to the question from the Public Petitions Committee about the likely timetable for the transfer of powers relating to school transport safety.

My letter to you of 20 October confirmed that the policy and legal teams from the Department for Transport and Transport Scotland had held discussions concerning the detail of the functions to be transferred. I also indicated that I understood Transport Scotland was discussing options with Scottish Ministers before providing further clarity on this point. Since that time my officials have maintained regular contact with Transport Scotland so that progress can be made once the clarification is provided.

I understand that at present Transport Scotland is not in a position to provide any further advice that would allow the respective legal teams to make progress. As I mentioned previously, once the legal mechanism has been identified and agreed, I expect matters to move forward more swiftly. However, the matter will be subject to debates in both UK and Scottish parliaments and is unlikely to be a short process, perhaps taking up to 12 months to complete.

I hope this is helpful and reassures the Committee that we will progress this matter as quickly as possible.

MIKE PENNING