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Convener of the Committee
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The Scottish Parliament
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From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Robert Goodwill MP

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Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 21 November to Stephen Hammond, about the consideration of petitions PE1098 and PE1223 in relation to the likely timetable for the transfer of powers relating to school transport safety. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

Further to my predecessors' letter to you of 10 April 2012, I confirm that there has been no agreement as to which powers relating to school bus safety should be devolved to Scottish Ministers.

I understand that Department for Transport officials are awaiting further advice from Transport Scotland concerning the detail of functions for which transfer is being sought.

The most recent correspondence from Transport Scotland dated March 2013 suggested that they were finalising policy proposals for Ministerial approval, before responding to the Department for Transport.

Once this clarification is provided, we will progress this matter as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely