

Major Transport and Infrastructure Projects Directorate

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COMHDHAIL
ALBA



Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 11 July 2013

Mr Andrew Howlett
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
T3.40
Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Howlett,

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1478

Thank you for your letter of 31 May to David Middleton, Chief Executive, Transport Scotland, who has asked me, as Director of the Major Transport Infrastructure Projects Directorate, to address the questions that the Public Petitions Committee has raised. Please find the following responses to the questions posed:

- When the decision was made to link the AWPR and the Balmedie to Tippetty upgrade what was the criteria for making that decision?

The decision to combine the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and Balmedie to Tippetty (AWPR/B-T) was confirmed in the publication "Scotland's Spending Plans and Draft Budget 2011-12" in November 2010.

The NPD model has been adopted by the Scottish Government in cases where value for money assessment of risks, costs and benefits over the life of the asset indicates that a structured long term partnership arrangement between public and private parties would offer the most cost effective method of infrastructure delivery.

- Is the decision making criteria used to link the two projects in 2011 still valid?

I can confirm that the decision making criteria used to link the two projects in November 2010 are still valid.

- Pending completion of the work, what consideration has been given to potential temporary measures on the existing road infrastructure to improve the traffic flow and reduce the delays particularly at peak times?

We are currently scheduled to award the NPD contract for the AWPR/B-T project in the autumn of 2014. Where possible, Transport Scotland and the funding partners will look at opportunities to deliver early benefits to the people in the North East in advance of the full scheme opening. We will work closely together with bidders to identify whether the Balmedie to Tippetty scheme

could be completed early in the programme which would significantly improve the traffic flow and reduce the delays on this important section of the A90.

I am copying this letter to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities and the Minister for Transport and Veterans for their information.

Yours sincerely

Ainslie McLaughlin

Director, MTRIPS