

PE1600/K

Scottish Government submission of 27 June 2017

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2017 in connection with Petition PE1600 which calls for the introduction of Speed Awareness Courses (SAC) in Scotland.

The committee has asked the Scottish Government the following questions.

- If there is another option in Scotland, why is it not being taken forward?
- Are there complications or barriers to rolling out speed awareness courses across Scotland that the Committee is not aware of?

As the Committee is already aware the Lord Advocate has granted Police Scotland permission to commence scoping work for the potential introduction of these courses. As a result Police Scotland is presently carrying out preparatory work to establish how speed awareness courses could be introduced and identify practical implementation steps required for this to take place.

However, the decision on whether or not Speed Awareness Courses should be introduced in Scotland is solely a matter for the Lord Advocate and he has said that he would be happy to consider any a detailed proposal that Police Scotland put forward to him

As previously indicated the Department for Transport are currently conducting a 3 year evaluation into Speed Awareness Courses and their effectiveness and impact on changing behaviours. The Lord Advocate has also said that he would be interested to consider the findings from this evaluation.

The answers to both of the specific questions you have asked will I expect form part of the scoping work that is currently being carried out by Police Scotland In advance of the completion of that work and before a proposal is submitted to the Lord Advocate, it would not be appropriate for Transport Scotland to comment at this stage. However, as you are aware the Strategic Partnership Board will continue to be updated on the emerging picture and will help provide a steer to our road safety partners on any identified barriers to implementation.