



Mrs Zoe Tough
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament

Our Ref : NE/05/01/BT/DS

Your Ref : PE1175

By e-mail

Date : 17 December 2008

Dear Mrs Tough

**3rd GENERATION TERM CONTRACT FOR MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE
SCOTTISH TRUNK ROAD NETWORK - NORTH EAST UNIT
CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1175**

Thank you for your letter of 08 October 2008 in connection with the above. I understand that a response is requested to the specific issues raised in Petition 1175 by Dr Robert Grant on behalf of Glenrothes Area Futures Group, in connection with the A92 trunk road. I understand that a response has also been requested from Transport Scotland to the issues raised within the petition.

BEAR Scotland Ltd are employed as Operating Company to Transport Scotland for trunk roads in the North East and South East of Scotland. The A92 trunk road between Halbeath and Dundee is included as part of the North East trunk road network. Under the terms of the Contract, BEAR Scotland are broadly responsible for management and maintenance of this route, inclusive of the following functions:

Management functions include:

- Co-ordination of works on the network
- Authorisation of road openings, scaffolding and skips
- Carriageway, bridges, road lighting and footway inspections
- Investigation, design and supervision of carriageway maintenance, improvement and traffic safety schemes.
- Approval of abnormal load movements
- Liaison with the Local Authorities, Police, Statutory Undertakers and other organisations.

Maintenance operations include:

- Routine carriageway, bridges, safety barrier and road lighting repairs
- Cyclic maintenance operations such as grass cutting and gully cleaning
- Carriageway reconstruction and resurfacing and provision of specialist surface treatments
- Replacement/-

- Replacement of road markings and road signs
- Emergency response and incident response
- Winter precautionary salting and snow clearance
- Construction of road improvement schemes as defined by the Trunk Road Authority, Transport Scotland.

It should be clarified that Transport Scotland remain the Trunk Road Authority and as such, any proposals for major alterations or improvements on the network will be considered by Transport Scotland. Proposals which show a priority justification in terms of road safety, sustainability, economic grounds or other factors will be included on programmes of design and construction to be progressed by BEAR Scotland Ltd within annual budget allocations.

We are aware of correspondence between Glenrothes Area Futures Group, Transport Scotland and other parties within which requests have been made for consideration of upgrade to the A92 in the Glenrothes Area.

Following instruction from Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland Ltd have in the past 12 months carried out the following improvements on the A92 within the area in question:

- Visibility improvements for A92 southbound traffic approaching Cadham junction, through the reduction of the height of a boundary wall together with tree and vegetation clearance. Additional advance warning signing has also been erected.
- A ban on right turning traffic at the Cadham junction has also been introduced.
- Street lighting upgrades have been progressed at A92 Balfarg junction.

It is understood that following a meeting, a commitment was given in September 2008 by the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, Stewart Stevenson MSP, to the Glenrothes Area Futures Group that further analysis of the junctions of the A92 at Cadham and Balfarg would be carried out to determine potential additional improvements which may be feasible in the short term. Transport Scotland have instructed BEAR Scotland to carry out this assessment, which is due to be concluded early in 2009.

On Friday 12th December 2008, officials from Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland Ltd met with members of the Glenrothes Area Futures Group, Lindsey Roy MP, Claire Baker MSP, Councillor Bill Kay and members of Keytag (Kirkcaldy East Transport Action Group to discuss matters in detail. Transport Scotland advised of the recent publication of the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) within which a commitment was made to look at route management of the A92. It was pointed out by Transport Scotland that there is no commitment at present for major improvements to this section of the A92, and that dualling of this section of the A92 is not included in the STPR.

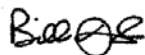
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The petition comments upon historical correspondence in the 1990's between Transport Scotland and Fife Council regarding dualling of the A92. BEAR Scotland Ltd have not been involved in such discussions and are therefore unable to make any specific comment regarding such matters.

It is understood that a response has also been requested from Transport Scotland to the issues raised within the petition, and that Malcolm Reed, Chief Executive of Transport Scotland has responded in detail to the issues raised within the petition.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Taylor
Managing Director

