## **Major Transport Infrastructure Projects**

Forth Replacement Crossing

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Steve Farrell Clerk to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee The Scottish Parliament

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Dear Mr Farrell

## Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee Future use of the Forth Road Bridge once the Queensferry Crossing opens

I refer to the commitment by Transport Scotland to provide regular updates on the progress of the Forth Replacement Crossing (FRC) Project.

As you will already be aware, once the Queensferry Crossing opens at the end of 2016, it will have motorway status. Paragraph 26 of the Policy Memorandum that accompanied the Forth Crossing Bill set out the policy proposed for the Forth Road Bridge (FRB), stating that the FRB will consequently become a dedicated public transport corridor for buses and taxis together with pedestrians, cyclists and motorcycles (of a capacity of less than 50cc).

Please find enclosed a recent letter from Derek MacKay MSP, Minister for Transport and Islands setting out that Scottish Ministers are minded to include the provision for learner motorcyclists up to 125cc to continue to use FRB once the Queensferry Crossing opens at the end of 2016. This letter was issued after careful consideration, to individuals that raised interest in this subject.

Secondary legislation will still be required to state what traffic can use the FRB once the Queensferry Crossing opens. The necessary Traffic Regulation Order will be subject to consultation ahead of being finalised. We would anticipate that this will be undertaken early in 2016.

Yours Sincerely

David Climie CEng FICE FRC Project Director

