



## INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

**4th Meeting, 2016 (Session 4)**

**Wednesday 27 January 2016**

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Adam Smith Room (CR5).

1. **Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the closure of the Forth Road Bridge:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Convener, Phil Wheeler, Convener, Councillor Ian Chisholm, Board Member, Barry Colford, Chief Engineer and Bridgemaster, and Chris Tracey, Engineering Services Manager, all of the former Forth Estuary Transport Authority (FETA).

2. **Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the closure of the Forth Road Bridge (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

Steve Farrell  
Clerk to the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
Tel: 0131 348 5211  
Email: [steve.farrell@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:steve.farrell@scottish.parliament.uk)

The papers for this meeting are as follows—

**Agenda item 1**

FRB Inquiry Cover Note

ICI/S4/16/4/1

PRIVATE PAPER

ICI/S4/16/4/2 (P)

**Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee**

**4<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2016 (Session 4), Wednesday 27 January 2016**

**Inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the closure of the Forth Road Bridge**

**Introduction**

1. At its meeting on 16 December 2015 the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee agreed to hold an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the closure of the Forth Road Bridge. This followed the closure of the bridge to all traffic on public safety grounds on 4 December due to the discovery of steelwork defects of a support beam.<sup>1</sup>

2. The remit of the inquiry is:

“To examine the management, monitoring and maintenance of the Forth Road Bridge principally in the 10 year period prior to its closure on public safety grounds in December 2015”

3. While the Committee understands that the closure of the Bridge brought frustration to travellers and continues to bring significant impact upon many businesses, it agreed that its inquiry should focus on the structural defects identified and whether these could have been avoided or dealt with differently. The Committee acknowledged that these related and hugely important issues might however be investigated at a later stage.

**Current work**

*Written evidence*

4. The Committee issued a [call for written evidence](#) on 16 December 2015 and the closing date for submissions is Friday 29 January 2016. A full list of submissions received so far is attached in the **Annexe**.

5. The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has also published a briefing on the [closure of the Forth Road Bridge](#). The briefing outlines the history of the Forth Road Bridge, how it has been managed, funding for bridge operations and looks in more detail at the events leading up to its temporary closure.

*Evidence sessions*

6. The Committee is holding a series of oral evidence sessions in January and February 2016.

7. At its first evidence session on 20 January 2016, the Committee heard evidence from representatives of Transport Scotland and Amey as well as bridge engineers from Arup and Fairhurst who had provided independent advice on the structural defects.

---

<sup>1</sup> The bridge was subsequently reopened to all traffic except Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) on 23 December 2015. The restriction for HGVs is expected to be in place until mid-February 2016.

8. At its meeting on Wednesday 27 January the Committee will hear from representatives of the former Forth Estuary Transport Authority (who had previously managed and maintained the Bridge up to June 2015). This will be followed by a session with independent engineering experts on 3 February and the Minister for Transport and Islands on Wednesday 24 February.

#### *Visits*

9. On 19 January the Committee visited the Forth Road Bridge to see where the steelwork failure occurred and the interim solution which has been put in place.



#### **Report**

10. The Committee will take into account all evidence received on the closure of the Forth Road Bridge prior to publishing a report on its findings prior to dissolution of the Scottish Parliament in March 2016.

**Andrew Proudfoot**  
**Senior Assistant Clerk**  
**January 2016**

#### **Annexe**

##### **Written submissions to the Infrastructure and Capital investment Committee**

- [Audit Scotland](#)
- [Cllr Ian Chisholm, Board Member and Fife Council elected representative to the former Forth Estuary Transport Authority \(FETA\)](#)
- [The Forth Estuary Transport Authority \(FETA\)](#)