

Alison Wilson  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
TG.01  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 ISP

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date:  
27 January 2011

Dear Alison

Thank you for your letter of 26 January to Carron Pollock seeking a written response for the Public Petitions Committee on PE1098 and PE1223. The Committee asked for a written response to the question reproduced below in bold which is followed by the response.

**Can I refer you to the discussion during the meeting and the letter from the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure with regards to the short survey that has been commissioned for February 2011 to gather initial reactions on the effectiveness of the Guide. The Committee would be grateful if you could provide it with a deadline for the report being published?**

The Guide to Improving School Transport Safety, its associated Main Report and News release were published on the Transport Scotland website on 20 December 2010. The report, which was commissioned from TRL (Transport Research Laboratory), is available for all local authorities and others with a responsibility for school transport. It provides information on the current legislative position, outlining policy and good practice procedures related to school transport safety. I attach a copy of the weblinks.

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/improving-school-transport-safety-guide>

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/improving-school-transport-safety-report>

#### News Release

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/news/School-Transport-Guidance-Published>

The short survey that has been commissioned from TRL for February 2011 is to establish initial reactions to the publication. We intend to publish the survey results on the Transport Scotland website as soon as practicable but the timing will be entirely dependent on how quickly responses are provided to TRL and the amount of work that may be required to convert the responses into a survey of value.

Due to the short timescale between publication of the Guide and the survey we think it unlikely that local authorities or others with an interest in school transport will have been able to consider in depth any actions they would wish to undertake. We have, therefore, also asked TRL to undertake a full review of the Guide early in 2012, a year after publication when more meaningful feedback should be obtained.

The Committee may wish to note that the Guide has been published as an on-line document thereby retaining the flexibility to update it, as necessary, if any significant issues arise during the year, for example, should there be any developments with regard to devolved powers.



**Jill Mulholland**  
**Road Safety Team Leader**