

Minister for Transport and Veterans
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Mr Andrew Howlett
Public Petition Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Your ref:
Our ref: 2013/0012356

28 May 2013

Dear Mr Howlette,

PUBLIC PETITIONS PE1098 and PE1223 ON SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Thank you for your letter of 8 May about the above-named public petitions and the length of time it has taken for the issues around them to be resolved.

In particular, the Committee sought clarification on the reasons for the two month delay of the publication of the report on the investigation into the associated costs of fitting seatbelts, and other safety measures on all school transport. I can only reiterate what was stated in my letter of 18 April that the reasons for the delay were due to a couple of weeks' slippage in appointing the contractors. Unfortunately, the initial work was not able to be undertaken before the 2012 Christmas holiday break, which meant that the final report will be available on 30 June rather than the end of April as was initially intended.

I acknowledge that there has been some considerable time since these petitions were first considered by the Committee and I understand its frustration at the delay. It is, however, important that we get appropriate evidence to make an informed decision on how best to take this forward. At this point in time I am not able to provide a date when a decision will be made but I can, however, assure you that my officials are working diligently to ensure that this matter is resolved as quickly as possible.

Kind regards

KEITH BROWN

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