

PE1236/DD

Email from Nigel Don MSP of 13 March 2012

Re: PE1236

Dear Anne,

Please find below information made available to me by David Young of the “Villages in Control” group in Laurencekirk. I would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of the Committee please.

Nigel Don

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Based on information in the public domain we, residents of the Howe of the Mearns, see that the profile of Laurencekirk, as used for reference in development planning, appears not to recognise that the town is also a heavy transport hub. This means that planners, who are remote from the area, do not realise that Laurencekirk is home to three heavy haulage companies and two bus companies, all in addition to the traffic normal for this size of community.

These transport businesses generate large unit traffic movements out and back through the town several times a day, mostly towards the A90.

The problem of the A90 is that it now runs to the east of the town and must be crossed to reach the majority of these heavy transport destinations.

75% are to the east and south therefore crossing 4 lanes.

Day long observation plus company supplied service schedules for a typical weekday add up to access or crossing of the A90 at Laurencekirk.

	Companies	Units	A90 Weekday Crossings
Heavy Haulage	3	15	38
Buses	2	58	222

The most serious concern is that 22 buses cross the A90 loaded with children.

Also one bus service makes 20 crossings per day loaded with passengers.

This is not a polemic about traffic congestion in the town. It is self-evident when, to reach the A90, all of these large units must pass through all or part of the High St with 19th century terraced housing and on-street parking on both sides.

The real concern is that the level of risk and frequency of large units crossing the A90 from and to Laurencekirk is not fully understood, and therefore the overall risks are underestimated.