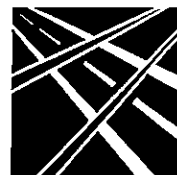


**Major Transport Infrastructure Projects**

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF  
Direct Line: 0141 272 7215, Fax: 0141 272 7111  
Ainslie.McLaughlin@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk



COMHDHAIL  
ALBA

TRANSPORT  
SCOTLAND

Alison Wilson  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Your ref:  
PE 1236

Our ref:

Date:  
17 April 2012

Dear Ms Wilson

Thank you for your letter of 28 March about Petition PE 1236 concerning the Laurencekirk junctions of the A90 trunk road. I have set out below our response to the questions raised.

**Are you aware of the number of heavy vehicles and buses that cross the junction on a daily / weekly basis?**

This is addressed by the Accident Investigation and Improvement (AIP) study of Laurencekirk commissioned in 2009. The first phase of this study was the A90 Laurencekirk Traffic Survey Report (June 2009), which provided details of a traffic movement study carried out at the three junctions. I have attached a copy of this report.

The survey covered all types of vehicles (including buses and heavy vehicles) and the site observation was carried out over a four day period from 9 - 12 May 2009 at each junction using video cameras. The survey methodology was based on industry best practice, covering a typical weekday and also a Saturday to record the differing volumes and patterns of traffic.

Assessment of the video footage allowed traffic counts to be taken over a 12 hour period i.e. 7am to 7pm on 9 and 11 May 2009. In addition, vehicular turning counts were carried out at each junction to allow a comparison of observed conflicts in relation to traffic volumes.

**Has any kind of hazard analysis been carried out with regards to the junction? If so can you clarify how and when it was carried out?**

The traffic survey information above informed the A90 Laurencekirk Road Safety Review Report (October 2009). This report identified all current issues and hazards affecting road safety at the three junctions and provided recommendations for future action.

A copy of this report was sent to the Public Petitions Committee on 23 October 2009 - PE 1236E refers.

None of the conflicts recorded during this study period included heavy vehicles or buses. In addition heavy vehicles or buses have not been highlighted in the accident record for the junctions.

**What are your views on the information provided to the Committee by Nigel Don MSP (PE 1236/DD) in relation to the number of heavy vehicles and buses crossing the junction from companies based in Laurencekirk?**

This information was previously provided by Jill Fotheringham, the Petitioner, at a meeting with Transport Scotland officials on 26 October 2011 relating to the cost refinement exercise. They were also recently provided by Nigel Don MSP in correspondence to the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment, Alex Neil MSP. In addition, David Young, of the "Villages in Control" group in Laurencekirk has also recently written to us about this information.

It is considered that this information does not provide any additional evidence, as the 2009 study and its recommendations was based on a comprehensive analysis of all vehicles crossing the junctions including buses and heavy vehicles.

**The Committee asks in light of this information that you reconsider the issues around the junction to help prevent a serious incident taking place.**

As indicated above, in line with our standard procedures, the 2009 Accident Investigation and Improvement (AIP) study looked at all vehicle types in terms of suitable accident remediation. It made a series of recommendations to improve safety at the junctions at Laurencekirk (PE 1236E refers). These measures have been implemented in full.

BEAR Scotland on behalf of Transport Scotland is undertaking a monitoring exercise to determine the effectiveness of the implementation of these safety measures. Initial conclusions have been encouraging and have determined that there is no requirement for any further remedial treatments at this time. All three junctions will continue to be monitored over the three years following the completion of the works, in accordance with Transport Scotland's annual accident reduction procedures. North East Scotland's Safety Camera Partnership will also continue to monitor the required enforcement level as well as evaluating the level of signage.

### **Additional Information**

In addition to responding to the questions posed, it is an appropriate opportunity to update the Committee on outcome of the discussions regarding the allocation of site M1 for 885 houses and 11 hectares of employment land in Laurencekirk within the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan. As part of the Examination of the Plan, the Reporter held a hearing session in Laurencekirk on 19 October 2011. The Examination is now complete and the Examination Report outlining the Reporters' recommendations was published on 13 March 2012.

Under Issue 48 'Laurencekirk' the Reporter concluded with the following preliminary findings in respect of the A90 junctions:

- "• any significant development at Laurencekirk will require 1 or more grade separated junctions on the A90;*
- it will be for the developers to fund the grade separation works;*
- the level of development proposed in the Plan would support the grade separation of either the north or the south junction, but not both;*
- the development of M1 would potentially provide a grade separated junction to the north of Laurencekirk;*

- *this is the busiest of the town's 3 junctions with the A90, and has been the location of a higher number of serious accidents than the south junction since 2005;*
- *there are clear benefits to the town in grade separating the north junction;*
- *it would also provide an excellent access to site M1, and keep development traffic through the town to a minimum."*

It was noted that further details regarding A90 junction improvements would need to be confirmed through a Transport Assessment for the M1 site which the developer will need to prepare in support when they decide to submit the planning application. More information on the Examination Report is available on the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals' website.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Ainslie McLaughlin  
Director