

PE1236/W

Petitioner Letter of 13 December 2011

Dear Chris,

I thank you for your email. I would like to take this opportunity to send a submission for the attention of the Petitions Committee.

Firstly I was grateful to Transport Scotland for meeting with me after the report was submitted on a more accurate costing of grade separation at Laurencekirk. The report was detailed and comprehensive but I was a bit disappointed to learn at the meeting that it was, again, a table top exercise only and no site visits had been carried out, I was also told at the meeting that the report was done, purely, for future development purposes only and Transport Scotland's opinion is, as has always been, that all previous safety measures carried out are working and the junction does not require upgrading. During the meeting it was pointed out to the representatives about the continuing growth in Montrose and we were told that it was up to Angus Council to inform Transport Scotland of any major developments. We have indeed been trying to do this for years. The Transport Minister says that if the development of 800 homes goes ahead in Laurencekirk then the junction must be upgraded, however over a 1,000 homes and industry growth is being allowed in Montrose without any checks on the impact this would have at the junction. These developments will have a major impact on the junction, we have said this before.

Within the last month, the A937 has featured in a TV documentary series entitled Britains Killer Roads. The A937 is now officially in the top four most dangerous roads in Scotland, the programme showed exactly what it is like, for commuters to use the junction, it also showed an interview with an independent roads engineer who suggested that a cheaper option to help at the junction, would be a split level crossing, he also said that the layout of the junction, as it is now, is extremely dangerous.

I would like to ask the Transport Minister if a split level crossing is an option that they would consider, I would also like to ask if Transport Scotland are consulted on any developments within the Montrose Area and if they consider the impact that these may have on the junction. The Transport Minister has said that he wants to make Scotland's roads safer, knowing that the A937 is one of the most dangerous roads in Scotland, I would like to know if it will now become a priority and be introduced into the STPR report. I find the thought that we have to wait another 20 years for our government to even consider this appalling. It is a harsh reality check to us all in the North East that, we know the only way that the work would be done is for more lives to be lost at the junction. We also know that more lives will be lost at the junction.

Yours sincerely

Jill Fotheringham