

PE1236/X

Nigel Don MSP Letter of 12 December 2011

Dear colleagues,

Following the recent report commissioned by Transport Scotland I have questioned the transport minister ([General Question Time 22/09/11](#)) about the immediate plans to provide funding for a grade separated junction. It is clear that the Scottish Government does not regard this as its highest priority at present.

The fact that it has not been included in other plans for substantial investment in the North East is not of itself a concern as the project, at around £13 million, is not big enough to fit in with the appropriate funding models.

The recent local plan inquiry, which I attended, indicated that there was not much scope for further development in Laurencekirk without the need for grade separated junctions, north and south. Everyone can see the problem and the solution; and of course developers do not want to pay for it.

Everyone who lives in the area knows that the south junction remains seriously dangerous; some aspects of this were highlighted by a recent television programme. One of the difficulties is that whilst the junction is in Aberdeenshire much of the traffic emanates from the Montrose area, in Angus. I have therefore arranged a meeting of senior officials of Aberdeenshire Council, Angus Council, and Nestrans for the New Year in an effort to find ways of bringing enough funding together.

I continue to regard this as the most important single issue for my constituents.

Nigel Don MSP Angus North and Mearns