



**PE1503/H**

28 February 2014

Mr Andrew Howlett  
Assistant Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee  
T3.40  
Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Howlett

**PUBLIC PETITIONS PE1503 – A9 AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS (ASC)**

I refer to your correspondence of 6 February 2014 within which the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee seeks views from members of the A9 Safety Group on issues raised at a recent meeting of the committee. In addressing the request made in your correspondence I would wish to provide the following observations.

Q1 : What are your views on what the petition seeks and the discussion that took place at the meeting on 28 January?

It is important to acknowledge that the vast majority of motorists using the A9 comply with the speed limit and thankfully, that it remains a minority of individuals who are unfortunately involved in road collisions. I believe that it is however necessary to introduce measures that provide enhanced monitoring of the speed limits and, as evidenced in other ASC systems, a proven reduction in collisions and greater consistency in traffic movement. This can assist motorists to have more confidence in the safety and planning of journeys and to benefit from the expanding journey time information systems provided by Transport Scotland.

I note that reference is made to the ASC on the A77, however my personal experience of the use of ASC was during the upgrade of the A80 between Banknock and Glasgow. I acknowledge that all road networks are different and provide their own problems and challenges however, in the course of this road improvement programme, I personally observed the very positive influence that the ASC had on traffic management and the level of speed compliance. Motorists were also given a greater level of confidence in planning journey times.

Through attendance at the A9 Safety Group and listening to the various organisations, including representatives from the bus and haulage industry along with members from the business sector, I have learned of some of the issues along the route. This included information concerning the implementation of engineering solutions, signage and management of vegetation and visibility splays that have been undertaken over the past months. In the course of the meetings, presentations



were received in regard to speed and collision profiling with further advice from expert bodies in demonstrating the impact that monitored traffic management may have on reducing collisions and influencing traffic movement.

Based on this information and my personal experience of the use of ASC I support the view that the introduction of an ASC system on sections of the A9 will prove beneficial in influencing driver behaviour and managing speed and flow of traffic along the route, in particular, on sections of the road where single carriageway conditions prevail.

Q2 : In addition to the institute of Advance Motorists recently joining, has the A9 Safety Group considered inviting other organisations such as the AA to be members of the Group.

I do not personally recall any additional groups being invited to join the A9 Safety Group although I would be happy to discuss this matter should any proposals be placed before the group.

Yours sincerely

Neil MacSporran  
Programme Manager  
Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership