

PE1540/W

Scottish Government letter of 14 November 2016

Thank you very much for your letter of 29 September 2016 asking for confirmation of the timing of the review of the National Transport Strategy (NTS) and the Strategic Transport Projects (STPR) review and how the members of the A83 taskforce, and wider communities of Argyll and Bute, will be able to contribute to those reviews.

We are committed to a collaborative review of the National Transport Strategy within the current parliament by giving stakeholders and communities across Scotland, such as the A83 taskforce, a greater say in influencing the development of transport policy and services at local, regional and national level.

We are in the process of establishing plans for how we propose to work with and engage stakeholders as we take forward the NTS review building on the work of the 2015 refresh. We are keen that organisations and the public have a number of opportunities to engage in the NTS review throughout the process. We propose to take forward some early engagement between now and spring 2017 and to build on this with wider engagement in the latter half of 2017 and into 2018. This will feed into formal consultation likely to take place in 2018. Our early engagement will be focused on seeking information and responses on stakeholders' views of the overarching issues and aspirations for transport as we look forward for the next 20 years or so. We envisage that stakeholder events will feature as part of our wider engagement alongside other media channels such as online/digital channels.

To undertake the review of STPR, there needs to be clearly defined set of strategic transport objectives; these will be assessed and defined as part of the above NTS review. Work on the update of STPR is currently in the early stages of planning and it is not possible to give a firm date for conclusion of this work at this point in time. However I am happy to provide an update on the timetable for the review once it is available.

Some preliminary work will commence this year to assist with NTS2, which will include the development of future transport scenarios, setting out what transport in Scotland could look like. This is to assist in the creation of a compelling vision of transport in Scotland going forward.