

**RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE**

**PRE-BUDGET/FINANCIAL SCRUTINY ON ROADS MAINTENANCE IN SCOTLAND**

**SUBMISSION FROM ARTHUR ROBINSON**

I read in the local paper that you are seeking the views of people on the condition of roads in Scotland. I live in rural Dumfriesshire roughly between Lockerbie and Langholm on the B7068. The condition of this road to the east of my house is deplorable. The road surface has been completely wrecked by heavy traffic going from a local quarry to a windfarm under construction about four miles away. Local MSP's, Councillors and the Police are well aware of the problem but little or nothing has been done about it. Earlier this year, following complaints from residents, we were assured that the road would be repaired early in the forthcoming financial year but we are still waiting.

Further inconvenience to residents has been caused by the closure of the C61a which runs between the B7068 and the village of Waterbeck. I understand there is a dispute between the Council and Scottish Power over who should bear the cost following work by Scottish Power laying a cable along the full length of the road. However I feel it is incumbent on the Council to ensure that roads are kept in passable condition and it is up to them to recover cost from third parties after repairing the road.