

RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

PRE-BUDGET/FINANCIAL SCRUTINY ON ROADS MAINTENANCE IN SCOTLAND

SUBMISSION FROM MATTHEW C AITKEN HAULAGE CONTRACTORS

I understand that the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee is calling for views on the state of our roads.

After reading some of your reports on the state of Scotland's roads, I am left with the impression that you don't seem to grasp the terrible condition that they are in.

We are a haulage business with nearly 40 years of experience of driving on Scotland's roads, and are encountering problems with the conditions of the roads on a daily basis.

For too many years, your repairs have been superficial patch up jobs, instead of doing a proper repair first time around. You are using substandard materials to save money, but this policy will in fact cost you far more in the long term.

Your lack of gully and offlet cleaning has left water lying on roads, which in turn damages the surface. I have seen trees, more than 20 years old growing in ditches.

You have saved a bit of money by not cutting trees back at the side of the road on a regular basis. As the trees are now so large this will cost more money than saved to rectify. Lorries regularly hit these trees and this has already caused accidents.

The subsidence on rural roads is getting substantially worse and I have seen no evidence of this problem being addressed.

Surely the only way to save money is to do the job properly first time by using top quality materials and sorting the whole problem and not just what shows on the surface. Indeed, after reading your reports on standards of the roads, I am somewhat concerned as to how low your standards are.