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Aileen Campbell MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Our ref:
2010/1000651

29 September 2010

Dear Aileen,

Road ownership and development in the area between Blackwood/Kirkmuirhill and Lesmahagow

Thank you for your letter of 7 September on behalf of your constituents regarding the road ownership and development in the area between Blackwood/Kirkmuirhill and Lesmahagow. As responsibility for this matter falls to my Directorate, I am replying on behalf of David Middleton, Chief Executive, who is currently out of the office.

Transport Scotland is responsible for the bridge structure carrying Vere Road over the M74 otherwise Vere Road is a local road and the responsibility of South Lanarkshire Council. Transport Scotland is also responsible for the Junction 9 slip road to the boundary of the channel line at the junction with the B7078.

Safer road design, improved speed management, continued maintenance and a better provision for vulnerable road users are amongst the steps being taken to reduce numbers of injuries and fatalities on Scotland's roads. Transport Scotland assess the safety performance of the trunk road network on an annual basis by screening all locations where 3 or more accidents have occurred in a 3 year period. Further investigations are carried out and where appropriate, mitigation measures are installed. The most recent assessment did not identify that the slip road at junction 9 that connects with the B7078 required further investigation at this time.

Turning now to your questions regarding proposals for Paterson's Quarries Ltd, it is my understanding that this proposal has not yet been submitted for planning permission and is currently only at the pre-application stage.

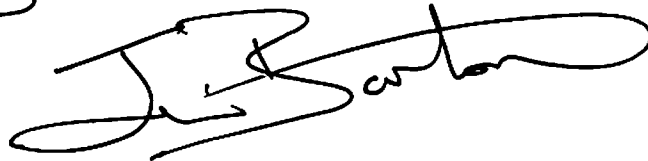
With regard to Planning Applications it may be helpful if I explain that Transport Scotland would be requested to participate in the consultation process when a valid Planning Application has been submitted to the local planning authority subject to the application meeting one or more of the following circumstances:

1. The application site is within 67m of the Trunk Road boundary;
2. Where the development proposes the formation, laying out or alteration of any means of access to a trunk road or
3. Where the development may result in a material increase in the volume of characteristics of traffic entering or leaving the trunk road or where a development affects a proposed trunk road.

I hope this is helpful.

I am copying this reply to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Barton', written in a cursive style.

Jim Barton
Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations