

Mr Hugh Gillies,  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House  
58 Port Dundas Road  
Glasgow G4 0HF

5<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Dear Mr Gillies,

### **Strategic Transport Projects Review (“STPR2”)**

The Institution of Engineers in Scotland (“IES”) has undertaken a review of STPR2 and has submitted its comments through the online consultation process. However, STPR2’s significance to Scotland, its culture and economy is such that the Institution’s Council has concluded that I should write to you to make the following additional points.

IES prepared its submission to the Consultation by setting up a Working Group to review the appropriate documentation and report to Council. This Group comprised four senior engineering professionals, each of whom was a Fellow of IES and at least one other of the major engineering Institutions. On completion of the Working Group’s review, I reported their progress to Council, prior to circulating the conclusions to the wider IES membership.

IES observed that, as it is a strategy document, STPR2 rightly consists largely of aspirations and statements of intent. With only one potential exception (speed reduction measures), IES views STPR2’s objectives as being commendable and is happy to support them. However, IES also concluded that STPR2 neglected or might have handled more effectively a number of important items. This was perhaps a consequence of the strategic nature of the exercise. Briefly, these items were:-

- As a document focussed on strategic transport issues, its significance was greatly diluted by its failure to consider issues such as air travel, airport infrastructure and connectivity, and some aspects of railway investment and infrastructure;
- While the question of road maintenance was considered, there seemed to be a less than appropriate recognition of the provisions of the Bute House Agreement, which specifies “...*focus money and effort on maintaining roads*”. Crucially there was no apparent recognition of two of the major factors that contribute to the currently poor state of Scotland’s roads. The first of these is the exceptionally poor re-instatement methodologies which utility companies are allowed to adopt. This leads to the second, an apparent failure to allocate sufficient funds to maintaining the roads, although it was noted that if the first factor were to be properly addressed there would be less need for maintenance funding;

- There was no recognition, in terms of health and safety considerations, of the damaging effects of noise pollution emanating from vehicles and the deleterious effect this has on public health and well-being.

The working group also noted that the consultation process, although worthwhile and welcomed, suffered from an unnecessary degree of complexity and was not generally “user friendly”

Despite these apparent shortcomings, IES welcomes STPR2 and the opportunity to comment on it and the Institution wishes the Scottish Government every success in its delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Andy Pearson, FIES  
President, Institution of Engineers in Scotland

cc:  
Ms Jenny Gilruth, MSP  
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