I am contacting you to make you aware of my great concern at the future of the budget for the Sustainable & Active Team in Transport Scotland, particularly the portion of that budget that is dedicated to the National Cycle Network.

Over the last three years this budget has been used to grant fund Sustrans, who have worked in partnership with local authorities to develop and improve the Network by creating community paths that allow people to get to where they want to go under their own steam.

As a consequence of the £5.5M budget Sustrans manages, the Network has seen a 44% increase in use with over 40 Million trips made on it in 2010. One third of those using the network were travelling to work and another third of those were new or returning to cycling. The Network in Scotland is without doubt the best maintained and signed part of the NCN in the UK. These are great results for Scotland and help the Government hit its policy targets, like the Cycling Action Plan and climate change act.

I would like you to recommend Transport Scotland does not cut this budget but maintains it at its current level to allow Sustrans to continue to develop the Network.