I have been appalled to read of the planned cut in Scottish Government investment in cycling infrastructure. Even if investment had been maintained at its present level, this would, quite frankly, be pathetic compared to the funding in most northern and western European countries, whose cycling infrastructure I have considerable experience of. However, to cut from a miserly 1.1% of the transport budget to around 0.8% is, frankly, incomprehensible and unforgivable, given the Government's supposed commitment to promoting active travel, encouraging healthy lifestyles, tackling obesity and minimising CO2 emissions. It also makes a mockery of the Government's green credentials.

Over the decades, I have been happy to see an ongoing improvement in cycling infrastructure and a significant increase in the use of the routes this has created, both locally and nationally. Given the current economic downturn, this is precisely the point at which to increase cycling investment, encouraging more economic travel and promoting cycle tourism, which is a growing but underfunded market. We host visiting European cyclists and can vouch for their response to the attractions of this country and their shock at the underdeveloped cycling infrastructure.

It is not too late to revisit this issue and I would appeal to the Committee to do all it can to ensure a return to previous, and hopefully improved, investment levels.