Maintaining the capital budget for the National Cycle Network will help to build on this growing success story. It is a proven way of developing active lifestyles, promoting health and sport, reducing car use and contributing to a whole range of government policies and targets. Please back this success and do not withdraw funding from an investment that is already proving itself to be excellent value for the money spent.

I am worried about the future of the budget for the Sustainable & Active Team in Transport Scotland, especially the part that is dedicated to the National Cycle Network.

I understand that 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 40Million 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.

Please recommend that Transport Scotland does not cut this budget but maintains it at its current level to allow Sustrans to continue to develop the Network.