

Transport Scotland submission of 24 October 2022

PE1974/A: Adopt the A890 as a trunk road

The Scottish Government has no plans to trunk the A890.

Scottish Ministers have a statutory duty to manage and maintain the trunk road network in line with the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984. The Act places an obligation on Ministers to keep the network under continual review. Furthermore, the Act places statutory responsibility for local road improvements, maintenance and repair with local authorities.

In the United Kingdom, trunk roads were first defined in the Trunk Roads Act 1936. There have been two national reviews of the Scottish road network within the last 70 years. The first was in 1946 and the second in 1994/95. The latter was prompted by the reorganisation of local government in Scotland.

A comprehensive national review of the overall network would only be required in response to matters of national significance. We therefore currently have no plans to undertake a formal review of the trunk road network. Ministers do however, keep the trunk road network under continual review with the issue last considered by Scottish Ministers following publication of the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR). Analysis of the network at that time determined that no major adjustments were required. In the intervening period, the network has been kept up to date by modifying the status of particular sections, as appropriate, in conjunction with the delivery of specific trunk road schemes.

The following guiding principles apply to the trunk road network:

- Provide the users with a coherent and continuous system of routes, which serve destinations of importance to industry, commerce, agriculture and tourism;
- Define nationally important routes which will be developed in line with strategic national transport demands; and
- Ensure roads of predominately local importance are managed locally.