

Minister for Transport submission of 26 September 2023

PE1974/F: Adopt the A890 as a trunk road

PE1980/D: Adopt the A832 between Achnasheen
and Gorstan as a trunk road

Thank you for your letter dated 8 September 2023 regarding Petition PE1974 and PE1980.

To clarify the Scottish Government's position in the [letter dated 27 February 2023](#), as attached, the A890 and A832 do not sufficiently meet the criteria laid out in my previous letter to be incorporated into the strategic motorway and trunk road network.

In addition to the key functions of a strategic road network, laid out in our previous response, the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2), published in December 2022, considered local roads to be "out of scope" unless they provided direct access to a major port or airport; linked to a nationally significant National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) development site; or where a local road intersected a trunk road where bus priority or active travel measures were proposed. While I note that the Highland Council did make representation for the A890 Stromeferry Bypass to be included within STPR2, due to the land slip issues that have affected this location, I would like to be clear that the evidence based transport appraisal that supported the review found that the A890 did not meet any of the criteria noted above and therefore was not considered further. Therefore, noting the criteria above neither the A890 or A832 met these criteria for consideration as part of the strategic transport network and were duly not included as part of the appraisal or STPR2 final recommendations.

As outlined in our previous letter, the routes are currently appropriately classified as principal "A" class roads. Principal A Class roads are best managed locally rather than centrally and function as main roads which distribute traffic to and from the strategic trunk road network.

The routes to the Hebrides and the Western Isles from the north, east and south are currently well served with several trunk routes linking to the main ferry ports including the A835, A82/A87, A830 and A85 to Ullapool, Uig, Mallaig and Oban respectively. Several principal A class distributor roads including the A890 link to these routes.

During the Committee meeting, the subject of funding was raised, and I am encouraged to hear that Highland Council is keen to find a solution to the issues on these routes. It may be helpful to note that in 2023/24, Highland Council received £561.5 million to fund local services, which equates to an extra £14.8 million to support vital day to day services or an additional 2.7 per cent compared to 2022/23.

I hope this is of assistance and clarifies the Government's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely

FIONA HYSLOP