

Visit Scotland submission of 24 February 2023

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

With thanks to the Committee for the opportunity to respond to the abovementioned petition.

Connectivity is an important part of the visitor experience. Without it, the visitor economy in remote regions of Scotland may not be able to function effectively. Accessible locations allow for tourism and events to be inclusive and accessible to all, including to a mobile workforce as well as visitors. This is why it is important that infrastructure is maintained to the highest possible standard.

VisitScotland therefore welcomes investment in critical tourism infrastructure. We consider that road infrastructure remains an important part of the visitor experience, and that when road infrastructure is not in the best condition, that does lead to complaints from visitors which could detract from our reputation and reduce levels of repeat visits.

With our focus on developing responsible tourism, a key priority is to ensure that tourism and events can contribute to thriving communities. Adequate infrastructure can play its part in delivering this by improving access for residents, visitors and workforce.

We also consider it important to ensure that the possibility of alternative modes of travel other than the car, such as bus travel and active travel, are fully explored wherever possible. VisitScotland is committed to working with partners across the country to encourage this approach.

In its response to the Petition to adopt the A832 between Achnasheen and Gorstan as a trunk road, the Scottish Government can consider this in line with its powers and duties to manage and maintain trunk roads according to the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and whether or not adopting the road will improve outcomes for residents and visitors to the area.