

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition PE2206: Review the weighting for single-track roads in the road maintenance funding formula, lodged by Jack McConnell

Brief overview of issues raised by the petition

The Scottish Government provides a block grant to local government consisting of the General Revenue Grant, Non-Domestic Rates income and several Specific Revenue Grants. Details of these allocations, plus their capital equivalents, are set out in the annual Scottish Government budget documents and associated Local Government Finance Circulars.

The total revenue funding available is distributed between Scotland's councils using a "needs-based" formula that is agreed annually following negotiation between the Scottish Government and CoSLA.

As part of this needs-based approach, a formula is used to calculate each council's general road maintenance funding allocation. This formula accounts for road usage (weighted by vehicle type) and the total lane length of the road network managed by each council (weighted by road type: principal, non-principal, or 'peat' – i.e. roads built on top of peat). A weighting also applies to sections of lane dedicated to on-street parking.

The petition is concerned with the fact that single track roads, found almost exclusively in remote rural areas and islands, are considered to be a single lane under this funding formula.

It is important to note that the amounts allocated to councils through this funding mechanism are not spending targets. Councils make spending decisions based on local needs and priorities.

Details of [road maintenance allocations to individual councils for financial year 2025-26](#) can be found on page 40 of the current Scottish Local Government Finance 'Green Book'.

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17 December 2025

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public.

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