



The First Minister
The Scottish Government
St Andrews House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

12th June 2019

Dear First Minister,

We're writing to express our concern that the Scottish Government is retreating on its pledge to review all policies in the light of the climate emergency, and to ask for your reassurance that this is not the case.

The Scottish Greens have welcomed your declaration of a climate emergency and the subsequent abandonment of plans to cut the Air Departure Tax. Taking the climate emergency seriously requires transformational change and strong leadership, which is why we were encouraged by the commitment you made to review all policies, including transport, in a Ministerial Statement on 14 May. You subsequently confirmed at First Ministers' Questions on 16 May that "all our policies require to be reviewed in the light of the report of the Committee on Climate Change".

We are therefore deeply concerned that in response to the Green question on Thursday 6th June at FMQs, the Deputy First Minister appeared to contradict this, suggesting that transport infrastructure expenditure, and specifically the continued investment of billions of pounds into dualling the A9 and A96, would not be part of this review.

Transport is responsible for over a third of Scotland's emissions and this is increasing, yet this is a fully devolved area with a total budget of over £2.5bn. It is absolutely essential that transport policy and every specific infrastructure project is reviewed to ensure it is aligned behind our climate goals.

Following the declaration of a climate emergency, the Welsh Government cancelled its plans for the £1.4bn M4 relief road. This is an example of one of the many brave decisions that need to be made in the face of the climate emergency.

We believe that you must now urgently confirm whether the remaining stages of the A9 and A96 dualling projects will be part of the forthcoming review, what scope the review will have to consider alternatives such as upgrading and electrification of the currently single-track Highland mainline, and when and how this review will be taken forward. This could not be more important, particularly given that the Scottish Government has missed its 2017 greenhouse gas emissions target, with transport emissions continuing to increase.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Harvie MSP & Alison Johnstone MSP
Parliamentary Co-Leaders of the Scottish Green Party