<Name MSP>

SNP Leadership candidate

7th March 2023

Dear

**Show your support for highly valued active travel policies**

We are writing on behalf of Cycling UK and Pedal on Parliament, to find out what you would do for active travel - wheeling, walking and cycling - as First Minister. Most immediately, we would like to know where you stand on the active travel provisions of the Bute House agreement.

Please can you confirm whether you will continue to support the following key measures:

* Aligning transport policy with climate targets and the goal of reducing car/km by 20% by 2030.
* Increasing the proportion of Transport Scotland’s budget spent on Active Travel initiatives so that by 2024-25 at least £320m or 10% of the total transport budget will be allocated to active travel.
* Encouraging local authorities to deliver more Safe to School initiatives, with the aim of ensuring every child who lives within two miles of school is able to walk or wheel safely.
* Ensuring all appropriate roads in built up areas will have a safer speed limit of 20 mph by 2025.
* Working with Police Scotland to pilot an online reporting system enabling anyone to upload camera footage of dangerous driving.
* Supporting the purchase of buses with space to transport bikes as well as wheelchairs and buggies.
* Establishing an active freeway network for Scotland.

As outlined in the agreement, these measures should go hand in hand with increased investment in the rail network and in buses, support for fair public transport fares, and a shift away from road building.

We have been encouraged by the Scottish Government's commitment to creating the conditions needed in Scotland to enable everyone to walk, wheel or cycle for everyday journeys. As you will know, this will not just help tackle the climate emergency, but also provide benefits for health, equity, clean air and even greater happiness (Cycling UK's [Getting There with Cycling](https://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/document/2022/04/getting_there_with_cycling_stage_3_single_pages_0.pdf) report summarises the latest evidence for investing in cycling infrastructure in particular, but the same applies for walking and, especially, wheeling). We hope that you will commit to continuing this if you are elected leader.

Cycling UK is a charity with nearly 5000 members in Scotland. We are a champion for cyclists, campaign for policies and investment in Scotland which will encourage more people to benefit from riding a bike, and run projects which provide support to enable people to cycle.

Pedal on Parliament is the grassroots campaign for a cycle-friendly Scotland which every year brings thousands of people to the streets of Edinburgh to call for conditions enabling everyone to ride

We look forward to your response

Yours sincerely

Sally Hinchcliffe – Co-organiser – Pedal on Parliament

Jim Densham - Campaigns and Policy Manager – Scotland, Cycling UK

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