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Councillor Raymond Bremner
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Our Reference: 202300349438
Your Reference: Investment In the Highland Road Network

13 April 2023

Dear Raymond,

Thank you for your letter dated 20th March 2023 to Jenny Gilruth MSP, regarding investment in the Highland road network. As the new Minister for Transport, your letter has been passed to me to respond.

The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 places the statutory responsibility for local roads improvement, maintenance and repair with local road authorities. Neither the Scottish Ministers or the Scottish Government would become directly involved in these day to day duties.

I can confirm that in 2023-24, Highland Council will receive £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. In addition all councils will receive their fair share of the currently undistributed sum of £329.8 million.

This funding is provided to local authorities in a block grant and we do not stipulate how they should utilise their individual allocations. It is therefore the responsibility of each local authority to manage their own budget and to allocate the financial resources available to them on the basis of local needs and priorities, having first fulfilled their statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely



KEVIN STEWART

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