Dear Wendy,

I indicated in my letter of 20 November, providing information on points raised at the Committee’s evidence session on the Draft Budget 2007-08 (6 November 2006), that I would write further with information in relation to transport expenditure in Dumfries & Galloway and the Borders.

I can confirm that since April 2000, spending for Dumfries & Galloway and the Borders of £123million and £84million respectively has been incurred from a total transport budget of £5,823million\(^1\). It is important to note that funding for transport purposes in Scotland is allocated both on a regional basis (through Grant Aided Expenditure) as well as on a project specific basis and that other expenditure, not directly shown above, will have an impact within these regions (e.g. expenditure on the M74).

As the Scottish Executive does not allocate its rail budgets by local authority, the expenditure is apportioned on the basis of approximately 5% & 3% for rail for Dumfries & Galloway and Borders respectively. For Roads the expenditure includes work on the A1, A7, A75 & A77. A fuller breakdown on public transport funding can be found in the responses to two PQs S2W-5589 & S2W-18532 and in the section 70 Grant Payments made in accordance with the Transport Scotland Act 2001, section 70(4).

From 1 December 2005, Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) were established with the aim to strengthen the planning and delivery of regional transport. The South-West RTP & South-East Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN) being the RTPs representing Dumfries & Galloway and the Borders regions. In addition the Borders Rail link will incur expenditure of £155million from the Scottish Executive of the total cost of £175million\(^2\) on re-establishing a rail link providing passenger services between Edinburgh and the central Borders in 2011. Nationally from April 2006.
more than one million people are now eligible for new concessionary bus passes that allow travel anywhere in Scotland under an expansion of the service which had previously been run by local authorities. From January 2006, this programme will be expanded to include all 16-18 year olds living in Scotland covering buses, trains and ferries across the country.

I trust that this additional information will be helpful in your further consideration of the Draft Budget 2007-08.

Best wishes

Tom McCabe

TOM MCCABE

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1 This figure excludes AME & Roads depreciation but includes Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) held within the Finance & Public Services Reform portfolio.

2 This figure is based at 2011 prices.