

PRESS RELEASE

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Bypass Costs top £100 million.

Road Sense has recently established that the money spent on developing the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route to date has reached the milestone figure of £100 million (1). The £100million spent consists of land purchases, ground surveys, consultants' fees and other costs, but does not include any amounts for land acquired under compulsory purchase orders or additional compensation payable under the CPO's, nor any construction costs. Road Sense believes it now impossible for the project to be delivered on budget, and it is likely the project will run hugely over-budget. The estimated cost advised by Transport Scotland to the Public Local Inquiry of £347 million would mean a cost per kilometre of just over £5 million, whereas a more realistic cost would be in excess of £25 million per km, Road Sense claim.

"The deceit that Transport Scotland has been perpetrating for the last 5 years about the Aberdeen Bypass is now finally beginning to unravel," said William Walton, Chairman of Road Sense. "The costs are spiralling out of control, as we expected, because back in 2005 the Minister selected a route corridor on which there had been no investigation or consultation. Transport Scotland then had to develop a route within a 2km wide corridor, and then selected one which involved the completely unnecessary demolition of a state of the art school and its reinstatement in the most expensive suburb in the city. The point is that if the minister had gone back to the drawing board and developed a transport solution properly based on environmental and economic considerations – as required - then all of this huge expense would have been completely avoidable."

Sheona Warnock, Road Sense Spokesperson added, "It is questionable how the road can be built for the remaining £250 million. When will politicians start being straight with local and national taxpayers about the true cost of the road? It is ludicrous that we have had no proper updated estimate, and yet Road Sense has been ridiculed for suggesting an AWPR price tag of over £1 billion. We stand by this figure. It remains to be seen how Aberdeen City and Shire will be able to foot their shares of the bill."

"The money spent to date is incredible," said Dave Robb, Vice Chair of Road Sense. "It just confirms the inept bungling resulting from a politically motivated decision at the last moment, in December 2005. To our critics, we would add that Road Sense is not responsible for these costs, which are mainly the result of appallingly bad project management right from the start."

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Editors Notes:

1. AWPR Managing Agents confirmed a total of £99,915,182 has been spent on the AWPR to the end of March 2010.
2. For comparison, the north Carlisle bypass cost £18 million per mile for a single carriageway road. A factor of 1.6 is usually applied to convert the figure from a single to a dual carriageway, resulting in a figure of £28 m per km.

Road Sense was formed in January 2006 and is a group that includes residents from across the Aberdeen area who are objecting to the AWPR as it is currently planned. More information on Road Sense can be found at: www.road-sense.org

More information on the AWPR can be found at: www.awpr.co.uk. More information on the AWPR Public Local inquiry can be found at www.awpr-pli.org