

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 10 February 2009 – for immediate use

ABERDEEN BYPASS CAMPAIGNERS ASK PUBLIC INQUIRY REPORTERS TO IGNORE FINAL SUBMISSION FROM TRANSPORT SCOTLAND AS IT MISSES ITS FOURTH DEADLINE EXTENSION

Road Sense, a group opposed to the proposed Aberdeen bypass, has today (Tuesday 10 February 2009) asked the Reporters of the Public Local Inquiry into the proposed new road to make a formal ruling about Transport Scotland's failure to lodge a closing submission to the Inquiry. So far, Transport Scotland has missed four successive deadlines set for lodging its final submission, and no indication has been given as to when the document may now be expected.

In a letter to the Public Inquiry Reporters, Road Sense has argued that, because of the continued failure of Transport Scotland to lodge its final submission, it has effectively waived its entitlement to do so, and any submission received from Transport Scotland from now on should be ignored.

It is customary for parties to a Public Inquiry to make final submissions, which summarise the case and bring out points raised at the Inquiry and during cross examination. It is also normal practice for the promoters of a scheme (in this case, Transport Scotland) to submit their final submission last, after the delay of a day or so. Transport Scotland's final submission to the Public Inquiry into the Aberdeen Bypass has been delayed by almost a month now.

"This situation is unprecedented," claimed William Walton, Chairman of Road Sense. "Transport Scotland failed to issue its submission by the latest fifth February deadline agreed with the Public Inquiry Reporters. It failed to obtain the Reporters' agreement to an extension to that deadline, saying that its final submission would be lodged by the ninth of February. But here we are, still waiting. When objectors requested extensions from the Public Inquiry Reporters, Transport Scotland raised objections and many of these requests were denied by the Reporters. The time has now come for the Reporters to make the appropriate ruling and refuse to accept Transport Scotland's final submission."

Ends

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Editors Notes:

1. Road Sense

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 currently proposed.

See: www.road-sense.org

2. Public Local Inquiry into the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route

The AWPR inquiry ran for some 3 months, and originally the closing submissions of objectors were required by 8 January, with the Transport Scotland submission required by 15 January. Since then, there has been slippage from Transport Scotland of almost one month, due to various unexplained circumstances.

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