Our ref: 180615/MCS

June 2015

Dear Stakeholder,

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to the future operation of the Forth Road Bridge. In particular, you raised concerns with regards to learner motorcyclists up to 125cc crossing the Firth of Forth once the Queensferry Crossing opens to traffic at the end of 2016.

As you are aware, the Policy Memorandum supporting the Forth Crossing Bill stated that the Queensferry Crossing would be designated as a motorway, whilst the Forth Road Bridge would become a dedicated public transport corridor for buses and taxis, together with pedestrians, cyclists and motorcycles less than 50cc, as they are not permitted on motorways.

As you have highlighted, the above scenario would disadvantage learner motorcycles between 50cc and 125cc as they would be unable to use the Forth Road Bridge or Queensferry Crossing to cross the Firth of Forth.

I have considered this issue further and I am pleased to inform you that we are now minded to include provision for learner motorcycles up to 125cc to continue to cross the Firth of Forth using the Forth Road Bridge once the Queensferry Crossing opens to traffic at the end of 2016.

It is our intention that the secondary legislation required, in the form of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), will reflect this change with respect to what traffic can use the Forth Road Bridge when the Queensferry Crossing opens to traffic at the end of 2016. This TRO will be published in advance and will be subject to public consultation ahead of this being finalised and implemented. It is anticipated that this process will start early in 2016.

I hope this addresses your concerns and that this response underlines the commitment of The Scottish Government and the Forth Replacement Crossing Team, to prioritise stakeholder engagement and communication.