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for Transport

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(1 February 2019

*Dear Lillian*

Thank you for your letter of 29 January, seeking supplementary evidence for the Transport Committee inquiry into active travel. I enclose a short paper setting out answers to the points you have raised.

I look forward to meeting the Committee later in the year.

*As ever,*



**JESSE NORMAN**

## Transport Select Committee – Inquiry into Active Travel

### Supplementary Evidence – Department for Transport (Draft, dated 8 Feb 2019)

#### Introduction

1. This note responds to the request from the Transport Select Committee of 29 January 2019 for further written evidence on four points. This is summarised below.

**Q1 The Government has called the CWIS a £1.2 billion plan, and more recently has said that almost £2 billion is projected to be invested over this parliament to 2021 to deliver increased levels of active travel, but just over £300 million is ring-fenced for active travel. On what basis has the Government projected that £2 billion will be invested over this parliament?**

2. As set out in the Government Response to the CWIS Safety Review Call for Evidence<sup>1</sup>, Local councils and metro mayors have been greatly attracted by the benefits of cycling and walking, and they have allocated an additional £700 million<sup>2</sup> to safe infrastructure and other Active Travel projects since the CWIS was published in April 2017. This represents an expected uplift of nearly 60 per cent on the investment levels projected in 2017, reflecting the growing importance of this agenda. The funding projection is broken down as follows, noting that there is some uncertainty in the total active travel content within some funding schemes as bidding and development processes are still underway for many cross-Government initiatives:

Funding Source	Projected investment 2016/17-20/21
Access Fund	£80m
Bikeability	£50m
Cycle Ambition Cities	£101m
Cycle Safety Fund	£7m
Cycle Rail	£12m
Highways England Designated Funds	£84m
National Outreach Projects & Innovation <sup>3</sup>	£14m
<b>Total ring-fenced</b>	<b>£348m</b>
Local Growth Fund	£597m
Integrated Transport Block	£114m
Highways Maintenance Fund	£283m
National Air Quality Plan	£16m
National Productivity Investment Fund	£77m
Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund	£8m
Cross-Government Infrastructure Funds <sup>4</sup>	£500m
<b>Total non ring-fenced</b>	<b>£1595m</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1943m</b>

<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/758519/cycling-walking-investment-strategy-safety-review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758519/cycling-walking-investment-strategy-safety-review.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Funding allocated by LAs and LEPs over the period 2015/16-20/21 in addition to the £1.2bn set out in the CWIS of April 2017

<sup>3</sup> Outreach and innovation initiatives include Big Bike Revival, Walk to School Outreach, Cycling and Walking to Work Fund, Small Business Research Initiative, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) pilots and National Cycle Network development projects.

<sup>4</sup> Only a proportion of these funds have been allocated. Projection assumes average of 5% of applicable infrastructure funds will be spent on active travel. These include the £2.5bn Transforming Cities Fund, £5.5bn Housing Infrastructure Fund, £1bn Sport England Sports Strategy (including Local Delivery Pilots), £220m Clean Air Fund, £30m HS2 Environment and Safety Fund and £675m High Streets Fund. The proportion will vary across different types of infrastructure funding, potentially from around 2% to 10% of fund allocation.

**Q2 The Government is required to report on progress towards meeting the objectives of its Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy. What are you doing to assess your progress so far and when can we expect to see your first progress report?**

3. The Department is undertaking formal monitoring and evaluation of significant funding programmes with cycling and walking content. This includes: Cycle Ambition Cities<sup>5</sup>, Bikeability, Access Fund and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan support scheme pilot. We will publish a higher-level assessment of progress of CWIS as a whole, as well as the successes and barriers, in the first report to Parliament.
4. The Department intends to publish the first progress report later this year, which will consider delivery of actions, outputs and outcomes over the first two years of the strategy, since publication in April 2017.

**Q3 The Department for Transport has commissioned research to assess the impact that current investment across England will have on rates of cycling, walking and walking-to-school and the additional investment required to meet the 2025 aims and targets set out in the CWIS. Who have you commissioned to conduct this research, and when do you expect to publish the outcome?**

5. The research is being undertaken by Transport for Quality of Life (TfQL) in conjunction with AECOM. The work involves extensive synthesis of evaluation and monitoring reports for recent cycling and walking interventions in order to establish a relationship between investment levels and increased cycling and walking activity. This will be used to assess a range of investment scenarios to meet the 2025 CWIS aims and targets. A report setting out the evidence used to build the model is due for publication in the spring.

**Q4 The Government has said that it will appoint a new Cycling and Walking Champion to raise the profile of Active Travel. What criteria are you applying to the role? Has the process for identifying a suitable candidate for this role begun? When do you hope to appoint a Champion?**

6. The Department is still considering the appropriate scope and responsibilities for the role. It is clear that the individual will require, amongst other attributes, a very strong set of influencing and stakeholder working skills in addition to cycling and walking expertise. The aim is to appoint an individual to the role by the middle of 2019.

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<sup>5</sup> Initial evaluation report for Cycle Ambition Cities published in September 2018. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycle-city-ambition-baseline-and-interim-report>