

Extract from Post Budget Committee Scrutiny briefing issued to Ministers on 21 January 2022.

TOP LINES

- We have budget allocated in the 2022-23 CSR to fund the A9/A96.
- The budget allocation for the A9 will allow us to continue to progress with completion of statutory processes, procurement and commencement of construction of the Tomatin to Moy section, and preparations for procurement of the remaining elements of the programme.

WORK ON THE A9

We are working hard to bring the benefits of the A9 Dualling programme to Scotland

- The £3 billion investment to dual the A9 between Perth and Inverness is one of the biggest transport infrastructure projects in Scotland's history.
- This Government remains firmly committed to completing the dualling of the A9 between Perth and Inverness which is both a national and a local priority.
- We have already invested over £360 million to date delivering the dualling programme.
- Work is continuing across the A9, with road users already benefiting from the dualled stretch between Kincaig and Dalraddy (since September 2017).
- The second section to be dualled, between Luncarty and the Pass of Birnam, opened fully to traffic on 28 August 2021.
- The Contract Notice for the next section between Tomatin to Moy was published on 19 August formally commencing procurement of the construction contract, which is expected to be awarded in the second half of this year.
- Design work is progressing well on the rest of the programme, with the statutory process well underway for seven of the remaining eight schemes.
- A market consultation exercise commenced in 2021 to inform assessment of procurement options for remaining sections when the statutory process is complete.
- Determination of the optimal procurement option is a complex exercise which is considering a pipeline of work in a form that can be delivered by the industry, supports the economic recovery post COVID and minimises disruption to users of this lifeline route.
- It is expected this analysis will be completed in the coming weeks and will inform decision making on our procurement approach and phasing.

All major projects, including the A9 Dualling Programme, are subject to on-going review and assessment work to ensure we deliver the right schemes and keep impacts on climate and the environment to the absolute minimum.

- All of the schemes in the A9 Dualling programme, with the exception of the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing scheme which is still in development, have been subject to a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment.
- This includes consideration of carbon and air quality, and have been scrutinised as part of the public consultation and public local inquiry process. As climate impacts have already been assessed, there is no programme impact in respect of this.
- Similarly, the statutory Environmental Impact Assessment for the last A9 project in development between Pass of Birnam and Tay Crossing will assess climate impacts.
- Let me assure you that there will be a continuing emphasis on managing and reducing environmental and climate impacts as the schemes move into construction.
- We are currently considering how best to incorporate methods of encouraging and incentivising reductions in carbon emissions within our procurement approach for the construction phases.
- This work is simply good practice and embedded into project delivery as part of programmed work. It does not create any delay.