

Joan McAlpine MSP
South of Scotland Region

Keith Brown MSP
Minister for Transport and Veterans
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH
EH1 3DG

01 July 2013

Dear Keith,

Annandale Transport Initiative

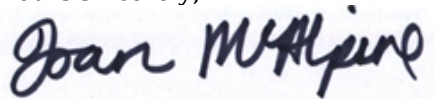
I am writing to you once again in relation to Annandale Transport Initiative (ATI), whom you will remember I mentioned during the debate on Scotland's ageing population. You will also remember that last month I asked a Parliamentary Question in relation to capital funding for the organisation.

In your answer you acknowledge that lack of capital investment to spend on new buses is a much more pressing demand on community transport initiatives than recent calls to extend the concessionary travel scheme. This morning's report published by the Infrastructure and Capital Investments Committee strongly supports this. I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate my comments on ATI, their importance in the local rural community and the benefit that they provide in terms of the Scottish Government's preventative spend agenda.

ATI desperately need to replace their current fleet of three 16 seater mini buses. The buses were purchased in 2003 & 2004 and ATI are finding that they need more repairs and time off the road to keep them going, but have found it extremely challenging to source capital funding.

In light of today's report, I write to you in the hope that the Scottish Government will be able to offer capital funding for successful community transport initiatives, and put forward once again the case for ATI to benefit from such funding should it become available. For ease of reference I am enclosing previous correspondence on the issue. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Joan McAlpine
MSP for South of Scotland

Encs.