

William Graham AM  
Chair of the Business and Enterprise Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

20 January 2016

Dear Mr Graham,

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the discussions today whilst the Committee considered delivery progress of the Active Travel Act.

My reason for writing is very specifically to address a comment which the Minister made in relation to a statement reported in Professor Cole's report. There was a strong suggestion in the way that the Minister repeated the reference to Sustrans being a cycling related organisation that the accusation and its sentiment are accepted truths.

Since Professor Cole's report was published there has been a clarification regarding the reported comment that the Minister may not have been aware of. The original comment was made by a Transport Scotland official: what was actually said was that some people [Scottish local authorities] may perceive Sustrans to be focused on cycling, however this is not a widespread view and not one that the official herself believed to be the case. The conversation with Professor Cole was made in the context of discussing the very successful administration by Sustrans Scotland of the active travel infrastructure programme on behalf of Transport Scotland.

Sustrans represents the interests of walkers and cyclists; more than two thirds of the users of the National Cycle Network are pedestrians. We are also heavily involved influencing the design of public realm, where we clearly advocate and bring forward design solutions for the specific needs of improve conditions for pedestrians. Our advocacy work, technical expertise, promotional projects (through schools, workplaces, communities) and public facing communications (on line and printed) all deal with walking and cycling. We strongly advocated for the Active Travel Act to be just that – we were against early ideas that the legislation should cater solely for cycling.

I am concerned that the Committee may be left with a false perception of Sustrans as a result of the comment being given such significance this morning, so I wanted to address this with you immediately and ask you to share with members. Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Jane Lorimer  
Director, Sustrans Cymru