

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate ☒ Yes ☐ No

#### Scottish Ambulance Service Comments

The Scottish Ambulance Service acknowledges the proposal to introduce an actively managed hard shoulder whilst work continues on the M9/A90/M90 Trunk Road. The continued use of this hard shoulder by emergency services will benefit the Service where other traffic is restricted to one lane and, as such, we would welcome the introduction of this facility.

However, we recognise that, at present, this regulation applies only to 'blue light' conditions for emergency responses. SAS also transfers patients between hospitals from Fife and Forth Valley into Edinburgh (over 1,500 patients in 2011/12), the vast majority of whom do not require blue lights but do require the skills of an A&E crew and are time critical, if not immediately life threatening.

As such, we would welcome use of the hard shoulder by SAS A&E vehicles under all conditions where this facilitates the timeous arrival of patients at hospital and does not delay treatment unnecessarily. To address any health and safety concerns, we would be prepared to use warnings such as blue lights and sirens whilst using the hard shoulder. This facility would also not be extended to our patient transport service.