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Annex A

Disclosures for the financial years 2022-23 and 2021-22

**Public Services Reform
(Scotland) Act 2010**

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Introduction

Part 3 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 requires listed public bodies to publish information as soon as is reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year. This is intended to promote greater openness and transparency and should include a statement of any expenditure incurred during that financial year on or in connection with the following matters:

- public relations
- overseas travel
- hospitality and entertainment
- external consultancy.

In addition, Section 31(1) of the Act requires public bodies to publish a statement as soon as is reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year specifying the following:

- the amount, date, payee and subject-matter of any payment made during that financial year which has a value in excess of £25,000 (inclusive of VAT)
- the number of individuals (if any) who received remuneration during that financial year in excess of £150,000 in relation to service as a member or employee of a public body (including officeholders and company directors and secretaries)
- the steps it has taken during that financial year to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions
- the steps it has taken during that financial year to improve efficiency, economy and effectiveness in the exercise of its functions - as part of the drive to improve the effective and efficient delivery of public services and to achieve maximum economy.

Information relating to Transport Scotland is shown below for financial years ended 31 March 2023 and 2022.

Statement of Expenditure under the Act

| Statutory Heading | 2022-23 | 2021-22 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Public relations (Note 1) | £902,159 | £922,196 |
| Overseas travel (Note 2) | £14,723 | £3,656 |
| Hospitality & entertainment (Note 3) | £5,352 | £656 |
| External consultancy (Note 4) | £9,424,870 | £13,764,526 |

Note 1

The total represents expenditure for the Transport Scotland Communications team on external communication, including the cost of in-house and contracted staff, marketing, PR campaigns, media relations, marketing research and evaluation, corporate communications, sponsorship, publications and printing, digital communications, advertising and media planning.

Note 2

The total represents expenditure incurred on overseas travel by staff in Transport Scotland covering travel to and from the United Kingdom, the cost of hotels, travel and subsistence and any other related expenditure. This figure has been maintained at a low level as a consequence and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other travel policies.

Note 3

The total represents expenditure on hospitality and entertainment incurred by Transport Scotland, as recorded in the accounting system and authorised in accordance with internal procedures. This figure has been maintained at a low level as a consequence and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other policies.

Note 4

The total represents expenditure on consultancy incurred by Transport Scotland, as recorded in the accounting system and authorised in accordance with internal procedures. It should be noted that for Transport Scotland, year 2022-23 was another critical year, with a significant agenda and set of challenges to meet. Consultancy advice was required across a number of business areas, including Low Carbon and De-carbonisation work; the Trunk Road Network; Traffic Scotland / Road

Safety work and on-line / website services; professional advice re Aviation, Rail, Bus and Ferry Services.

Payments with a value over £25,000

Transport Scotland publishes a monthly report of [payments with a value over £25,000](#).

Remuneration - Members and Employees

No employees received remuneration in excess of £150,000 in Transport Scotland in financial year 2022-23. Reference is made to this fact, along with the salary and pension entitlements of Transport Scotland's Directors, within the Remuneration Report in [Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23](#).

Statement of the steps taken by Transport Scotland to promote and increase sustainable growth through the exercise of its functions in the period

We remain focused on our priorities to deliver a transport system that reduces inequality, takes climate action, helps deliver inclusive economic growth, and improves our health and wellbeing. Our actions continue to be underpinned by both the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy and the Sustainable Investment Hierarchy.

We remain committed to building on many of the positive changes in travel behaviours witnessed throughout and post pandemic, and to retaining a strong focus on more sustainable active travel options, including making better use of existing infrastructure before investing in new capacity, and reinforcing our policy of Sustainable Travel and Investment, and promoting walking, cycling, shared transport options in preference to private car use.

Over the year, Transport Scotland has contributed to the sustainable growth agenda in the following ways:

- The Access Bikes project has created great opportunities for those experiencing financial hardship to access a bike, standard and adapted bikes were gifted, and an adapted e-bike library in partnership with Spinal Injury Scotland was opened.

- The Highland Spring's rail freight project will remove a minimum of ten million lorry miles from Scotland's roads in the first 10 years of operation.
- Preparation of four Low Emission Zones in Glasgow (opened in June 2023), Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen. £5.5m of Grant Funding provided to Energy Savings Trust and Local Authorities.
- Over 200 walking and cycling infrastructure projects in progress through the zero Everyone Programme with approved funding of £176 million.
- Our investment in Active Travel supported over 235 Places for Everyone Projects, over 40 km of new and improved routes on the National Cycle Network and the delivery of Cycling Walking Safer Routes projects across thirty-two local authorities.
- Reston station opened in May 2022, and we continued to maintain and enhance Scotland's railway, including on-going electrification and decarbonisation through our Rail Services Decarbonisation Plan, and subsidised the operation of ScotRail and Caledonian Sleeper Services.
- The Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme saw almost 5.7 million journeys from 609,000 cardholders and a 65% overall uptake at 31 March 2023.
- The Project CAVForth will provide a globally significant demonstration of UK autonomous bus capability along a 14-mile route across the Forth Road Bridge between Fife and Edinburgh
- Phase 5 of the Bus Emissions Abatement Retrofit Programme (BEAR) supported licenced bus and coach operators (including community transport operators and local authorities) to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate matter (PM) emissions of existing eligible fleet vehicles.
- £30 million to support the shift to zero emission transport, through continued funding ScotZEB Phase 1 and Low Carbon Transport Programmes, such as Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund and Switched on Fleets.
- In 2022-23 around thirteen thousand trains moved over four million tonnes of goods, saving millions of lorry miles in Scotland. 50% of these trains were electrically hauled.
- Our Operating Companies constructed five drainage improvement schemes and one watercourse realignment scheme in areas that are vulnerable to climate risks, such as flooding, slope failure and landslides. These schemes delivered engineering solutions that go beyond maintenance, which adapt the network to the current and future impacts of climate change.
- We implemented Perceptual Rider Information for Maximising Expertise and Enjoyment (PRIME) markings. These help riders make better decisions to adapt their riding when approaching bends. This project is considered the most in-depth investigation of motorcycle rider behaviour in the world. Since the start of the trials, there has been a significant reduction in speed, improvements in breaking and road position behaviours and no motorcycle injury collisions where PRIME markings have been deployed.

Statement of the steps taken by Transport Scotland to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in the exercise of its functions in the period

Our Information Technology (IT) teams continue to work to ensure that we remain well placed to benefit from new and emerging technologies, including Microsoft Teams, which we have continued to develop, and in doing so have helped to facilitate successful hybrid working. We have also invested in modern furniture and meeting room solutions and will continue to do when we move into our new permanent premises in late 2023. We have also invested in desk booking technology which will be developed further in 2023/24.

Our corporate teams have also delivered on a series of improved Governance processes during this financial year, including the review and enhancement of the Risk Management process.

We continue to work to improve corporate processes and ensure that appropriate budgets are allocated to fund the agreed commitments, and that they reflect robust projections within our long-term financial planning model.

We conduct regular Self Assessments exercises across all business areas throughout the year and we seek to provide assurance in respect of Best Value principles and seek recommendations for further continuous improvement.

Our approach to 'Smarter Working' allows a flexible approach to how we deliver objectives.

Our Corporate Procurement Strategy supports Scottish Government's goals of increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality. We continue to undertake our procurement activity in a sustainable manner by ensuring that each project procurement strategy considers sustainability and utilises collaborative contracts where appropriate. As well as including fair work and carbon requirements in our procurements, we remain at the forefront of implementing community benefits into our contracts and promoting our procurements to provide opportunities for SMEs and Supported Businesses.

Statement of current levels of shared service/cluster project activity within Transport Scotland in the period

Shared services/cluster project working is a key element of Transport Scotland's efficiency agenda, and we are committed to achieving quality public services that are valued by their customers and that realise efficiencies by employing best business practice and improved collaborative working.

Transport Scotland shares the following services and systems of the Scottish Government: Information and Communications, Human Resources, Estates, Payments, Financial Reporting and Payroll. In addition, Transport Scotland also shares services with other authorities, such as the Road Asset Valuation System.

Transport Scotland's policy is to use collaborative contracts, such as the ones awarded by Scottish Procurement, wherever practicable. Cash savings of £1,380,632 were delivered in 2022-23 (2021-22: £1,739,617) through expenditure of just over £10 million (2021-22: £11 million) on Scottish Procurement-led collaborative contracts and frameworks, thereby contributing to the Scottish Government's efficiency savings targets.

We aim to work in partnership with communities and to deliver social benefits across Scotland as a consequence of our work. We have been able to demonstrate this in a number of ways during 2022-23.

Women and girls' safety on public transport

In 2022, the Minister for Transport announced that the Scottish Government would consult on the safety of women and girls when using public transport. In response to this, social researchers from Transport Scotland designed and delivered an innovative research programme on the issue of women and girls' safety on public transport. For the first time, the programme brought together the views of women and girls who use and work on the public transport network, making recommendations geared to improving transport accessibility and therefore women's mobility, and also operational issues for female transport staff. The final research report was published in March 2023 *Women's and girls' views and experiences of personal safety when using public transport* | Transport Scotland. This features ten recommendations for the Scottish Government, Local Authorities, Police Scotland, and the British Transport Police. The recommendations were the focus of a parliamentary debate, with a motion passed in the Scottish Parliament to note the recommendations and to take this forward on a cross party basis. The work

highlights that safety is a concern for women and girls who use or work on public transport as part of their day to day lives. The research concludes that women and girls are being forced to adapt their own behaviour and change their travel habits in order to feel safe on public transport. Safety concerns affect women and girls' mobility and therefore access to services, social and cultural events, and employment. The recommendations that will be taken forward aim to improve this and bring benefits to women and girls across the country by:

- Improving access and use of public transport – by improving awareness of available tools and support for women and girls who feel vulnerable on public transport; and promoting safe home from work options for transport workers.
- Addressing key concerns of women and girls – by looking at strengthening rules around permissible behaviour and increasing penalties for non-compliance.
- Encouraging relevant organisations to support this agenda – by having effective safeguarding practices in place.

The research has also fed into wider policies such as that on Violence Against Women and Girls, helping to shape interventions which will bring further benefits for women and girls across Scotland.

A9 Dualling Programme

Ahead of the main construction work, a number of social, community and educational benefits have been delivered as part of advance works contracts related to enabling works near Tomatin Distillery and archaeological investigations.

Advance Works

As part of the advance works near Tomatin Distillery the contractor delivered the following:

- 1 completed university placement
- 14 qualifications achieved by the workforce
- 4 jobs advertised and filled through the local job centre
- 6 contracts awarded to Small to Medium Enterprises to the combined value of £500,000; and
- 1 supply contract awarded to Social Enterprises to the value of £8000.

The project also delivered a number of community engagement activities to benefit the local area including a community enhancement project for the Strathdearn Community Development Trust, which included fencing, installation of a culvert and drainage works to assist with a local community housing project, meetings with the local community council to provide regular contact and updates on the project. In addition, felled timber was donated to a local firewood business, excavated tree stumps were donated to a local sawmill and excavated peat was donated to a local mushroom farm.

Academy9

We continue to deliver the award-winning, Academy9 educational initiative. In addition to promoting learning in relation to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects in schools, the programme increases pupils' awareness of civil engineering-related careers. Academy9 has this year continued its events with over two hundred pupil and thirty teacher engagements, bringing the total to date to over 7,300 pupil and 890 teacher engagements along the length of the A9.

We continued to deliver an educational programme during the Covid-19 pandemic by digitising some of our core events, where appropriate and practicable, and creating some new online events, both further aligning with the Scottish Government's digital e-learning and teaching strategy. As a result, we now offer a more flexible delivery programme.

Now that schools and their teachers and senior management teams throughout the A9 Dualling corridor have returned to a stabilised curriculum, the Academy9 team are delighted to be back in schools delivering a full programme of events and activities in the current academic year.

Academy9's 'Sustainable Solutions – Roads of the Future Challenge – a challenge' event (for Primary and Secondary pupils) is based on the UNs Sustainable Development Goals. Following a successful event during COP 26 in November 2021, involving schools from the A9 Dualling corridor Glasgow and Birmingham, another event was held at the end of May 2023.

Demonstrating that Academy9 is an award-winning initiative, we have been shortlisted in the 'Best Practice-Knowledge Sharing' category at the CIEEM (Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management) Awards 2023 which are to be held in Birmingham in June 2023.

Lynebeg ecological pond

We have also funded a package of advance works undertaken on our behalf by Network Rail to deliver a replacement rail bridge at Lynebeg. As part of these works, a replacement ecological pond was constructed to help protect the habitat that supports a rare sub-species of the caddisfly to enable its future translocation to the new pond.

The works also included landscaping works such as wetland planting to further benefit the wider ecology in the area. Work finished in June 2022 and the habitat has time to establish before existing pond vegetation and features will be translocated.

A9/A96 Inshes to Smithton and A9/A82 Longman Junction Improvement Schemes

As part of the delivery of the A9/A82 Longman Junction Improvement and A9/A96 Inshes to Smithton schemes, Transport Scotland and their consultant, Jacobs, have engaged with several schools and local organisations to provide educational support, supply equipment and to facilitate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) related activities. Engagement has been carried out with a significant number of schools within Inverness and the surrounding areas which has been well received by pupils and teachers alike. In addition to direct engagement with schools, the projects have also facilitated engagement at events or with local organisations, such as the Inverness Science Festival, the Highland Celebration of Engineering, the Highland Home Education Group, a Beaver colony, pre-schools, after school clubs and career fairs.

A92/A96 Haudagain Junction Improvement Project

The project has provided 145 community engagement activities, sixteen work placements for school pupils, college and university students and employment opportunities for seven apprentices and five graduates. The project continued to provide community benefits through into Spring 2022, with active travel interactive events with local schools.



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