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Barry Aspinall
Standards, Traffic and Environment Branch
Trunk Road Infrastructure and Professional Services
Scottish Executive
Victoria Quay
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EH6 6QQ

25 January 2006

Dear Mr Aspinall

Scottish Trunk Road and Motorway Signposting – Policy Review

The Royal Town Planning Institute is grateful for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. The Institute welcomes the new policy on Scottish Trunk Road and Motorway Signposting, which it considers will assist in clarifying guidance and streamlining consultation procedures.

The RTPI is the UK body chartered to represent the planning profession and offers these comments from the point of view of a diverse and policy neutral professional body committed to supporting devolved government in Scotland. The Institute has 1800 members in Scotland working across all sectors of central government, local government, government agencies, the voluntary sector, private consultancy, the development industry and academia. Since devolution, the Institute has empowered its RTPI in Scotland Office, together with its Scottish Executive Committee, with the responsibility for working with government and public bodies generally for the improvement of the planning system in Scotland. This is in accordance with its charter obligation to work for the public interest.

The Institute supports the Trunk Roads and Motorway Signposting Policy's aims to reduce excessive signage; to take account of the surrounding landscape when locating and considering the need for new signs; and to minimise cumulative effects. We also support the need to undertake consultation in sensitive areas including National Parks, Areas of Great Landscape Value and conservation areas. Local Planning Authorities will have detailed landscape and design policies as part of their local plans and we recommend these as a useful framework for consideration of environmental impacts and would encourage close consultation between planning and transport authorities at local, regional and national level on matters of landscape and detailed design.

The Institute trusts that these comments are of assistance and has no objection to its comments being made available to the public in the usual way. Should you wish any clarification please do not hesitate to contact me at the RTPI Scotland,

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Yours sincerely

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