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Dear Jamie

### **A83 Rest and Be Thankful**

Thank you for your email of 1 December, on behalf of your constituents in Argyll and Bute, about the closure of the A83 trunk road following the recent landslide.

I am sorry for the disruption and inconvenience caused by the closure of the A83 trunk road at this location as a result of the landslip on 1 December. The initial clear up operation involved the removal of 120 tonnes of mud and boulders from the road surface, cleaning drains and installing a temporary concrete barrier at the toe of the slope. A detailed survey by geotechnical engineers of the hillside above the road was also undertaken, revealing substantial tension cracks and indicating a potential for a far larger landslip to occur.

The road was opened to traffic during daylight hours on Saturday 3 December under the control of traffic signals due to the restricted width of road remaining adjacent to the concrete barrier. During the hours of darkness the road was closed to all except emergency vehicles whilst our road engineers worked hard to find a solution to allow the opening of the road on a 24 hour basis to all traffic. It was intended to open the road overnight on 13 December, but this was prevented by the severe gales on that day which made it unsafe for workers to install equipment on the road.

After the gale force winds subsided, weather conditions allowed floodlighting to be installed and tested along this section of road. This will allow conditions on the road to be monitored through the night, adding an extra layer of safety for drivers. The road was opened to all traffic on a 24 hour basis on the morning of 14 December.

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