



Infrastructure
Commission
for Scotland



Infrastructure Commission for Scotland

Initial Call for Evidence and Contributions

March 2019



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01 Executive summary

1.1 Introduction

The Infrastructure Commission for Scotland was proposed as part of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government in September 2018. The remit for the Commission was set out on 11 December 2018 by Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, and its key requirements established:

- > Firstly, the Commission is to provide an independent assessment of the long-term 30-year strategy for infrastructure to meet the future economic growth and societal needs of Scotland. This will support the Scottish Government's delivery of its National Infrastructure Mission and development of the next Infrastructure Investment Plan for the five years ahead. The Commission will advise on the key strategic and early foundation investments to significantly boost economic growth and support delivery of Scotland's low carbon objectives and achievement of our climate change targets.
- > Secondly, and following the completion of this report, the Commission will be asked to provide advice to ministers on the delivery of infrastructure in Scotland, including the possible creation of a Scottish National Infrastructure Company.

On 11 December 2018 it was announced that Ian Russell CBE would Chair the Commission. On 11 February 2019 the following were announced as additional members of the Commission:

- > **Benny Higgins**, former Chief Executive of Tesco Bank
- > **Grahame Smith**, General Secretary of the Scottish TUC
- > **Iain Docherty**, Professor of Public Policy & Governance, University of Glasgow
- > **Jan Webb**, Professor of Sociology of Climate Change, University of Edinburgh
- > **John Trower**, Chairman at Optimity Ltd
- > **Ken Gillespie**, Chair of Construction Scotland
- > **Mary Pitcaithy**, former Chief Executive of Falkirk Council
- > **Rachel Skinner**, Head of Transport and Development at WSP
- > **Sara Thiam**, Regional Director, Scotland of the Institution of Civil Engineers

The work of the Commission will be taken forward independently of Scottish Government. Its first report will be published in December 2019, and its second report in July 2020.

1.2 Remit and guiding principles

The remit for the Commission is reproduced in Section 2 of this document, as are some guiding principles that will govern the way the Commission will be conducted.

1.3 Engagement and evidence gathering – how you can contribute

A key aspect of the Commission's remit, is that it should work in a way which is:

- > Engaging and widely consultative across all of Scotland and civic society
- > Credible, objective and evidence-based
- > Outward looking, forward thinking and innovative

Executive summary (continued)

The Commissioners have committed to the principles of broad engagement, evidence-based and forward thinking analysis that will underpin all the Commission's work and recommendations; and we aim to capture the expertise and opinions of people from across industry, business, the public sector, academia, civic society and the wider public. It is also recognised that in order to achieve this, a wide range of opportunities, beyond and in addition to this initial call for evidence, will need to be provided through which to engage and consult during the life of the Commission. Details of these wider engagement opportunities and events will be published by the Commission in the coming months.

As a first stage of engagement however, the Commission would like to invite written contributions to inform its initial evidence gathering and analysis. The nature of this initial call recognises that a number of individuals and organisations will already have reflected on the issues and challenges set out later in this paper and will already have gathered or developed evidence themselves and be developing or have developed policy advice. Through this initial call for evidence, the Commission would like to draw on this store of knowledge and thinking.

In publishing its Initial Call for Evidence and Contributions, the Commission wishes to provide this range of individuals, representative bodies, public bodies and organisations who use, plan, manage, maintain, finance and deliver infrastructure with the opportunity to contribute to its work by submitting written evidence. Contributors will be entirely free to shape their submission according to their field of interest and concerns recognising the 30-year horizon the Commission is working to.

The evidence and contributions will be used by the Commission to inform its thinking, as well as guide further investigation and assessment and will also inform the additional opportunities and approaches of engagement that will be undertaken across Scotland and civic society. You will find practical details of how to make a submission in Section 3. The closing date for responses is **Friday 3 May 2019**.

1.4 Further information

Copies of this document and other details of the Commission will also be available for download from the Commission website:

www.infrastructurecommission.scot

Contact details for the Secretariat may be found in Section 4.

02 Remit and guiding principles

2.1 The remit

The remit of the Infrastructure Commission for Scotland was agreed as part of the Scottish Government budget process for 2019/20 and published on 11 December 2018.

What

The Commission will provide independent, informed advice on the vision, ambition and priorities for a long-term, 30-year, strategy for infrastructure in Scotland to meet our future economic growth and societal needs. This will support the Scottish Government's delivery of its National Infrastructure Mission and development of the next Infrastructure Investment Plan for the five years ahead. The Commission will advise on the key strategic and early foundation investments to significantly boost economic growth and support delivery of Scotland's low carbon objectives and achievement of our climate change targets.

Following the completion of this report the Commission will be asked to provide advice to ministers on the delivery of infrastructure in Scotland, including the possible creation of a Scottish National Infrastructure Company.

When

The Commission will report on infrastructure ambitions and priorities by the end of 2019 and may make interim recommendations e.g. around guiding principles supporting the evolution of a coherent Infrastructure Investment Plan across sectors.

It is anticipated that a further six-month period will be required to consider recommendations on delivery models.

Remit and guiding principles (continued)

How

The Commission should work in a way which is:

- > Engaging and widely consultative across all of Scotland and civic society
- > Credible, objective and evidence-based
- > Outward looking, forward thinking and innovative

The Commission should pay attention to strategic drivers such as:

- > Securing Scotland's international competitiveness
- > The markets and connections Scotland requires for goods, services and people
- > How to prioritise investment to deliver inclusive economic growth and low carbon objectives
- > Demographic and other social change factors
- > Place-making
- > Technological change and innovation
- > Considerations around development, ownership and financing of infrastructure, including Fair Work

The Commission can determine how to progress its work and may use future-focused scenario planning tools or existing or new research and evidence.

Commissioners will be responsible for:

- > Bringing specific skills and experience
- > Providing expert, impartial advice
- > Engaging widely with stakeholders including industry, expert and interest groups, government, local government and public bodies, civic society and the public

2.2 Overarching objectives

- > Delivering sustainable inclusive economic growth across Scotland
 - > Managing the transition to a more resource efficient, lower carbon economy
 - > Supporting delivery of efficient, high quality, modern public services
 - > Increasing industry competitiveness, whilst tackling inequality
 - > Enhancing societal living conditions now and in the future
 - > Ensuring alignment with the new National Planning Framework
-

Remit and guiding principles (continued)

2.3 Scottish Government definition of infrastructure

Scottish Government describes infrastructure as:

“The physical and technical facilities, and fundamental systems necessary for the economy to function and to enable, sustain or enhance societal living conditions.

These include the networks, connections and storage relating to enabling infrastructure of transport, energy, water, telecoms, digital and internet, to permit the ready movement of people, goods and services. They include the built environment of housing; public infrastructure such as education, health, justice and cultural facilities; safety enhancement such as waste management or flood prevention; and public services such as emergency services and resilience.”

2.4 Additional guiding principles

Given the limited time available and the constant evolution of the public policy landscape – in Scotland, in the UK and internationally – the Commission cannot pretend to present more than their contribution to an essential public debate. The Commission will therefore endeavour to place practical and realistic options on the public agenda for further detailed consideration by Scottish Government and Parliament. In interpreting and taking forward its remit, the Commission will be guided by the following principles:

Ministerial precedence

The Commission process will not in any way seek to displace or second-guess the necessary judgements which Ministers will have to make in relation to infrastructure investment and prioritisation.

Independence

In keeping with its independent status, the Commission will not make value judgements which might be construed as party political. Rather, it will seek to present an informed and dispassionate view of the needs of infrastructure in Scotland over the coming years and make practical recommendations.

03 How you can contribute to the work of the Commission

3.1 Introduction

As set out in the remit, it is proposed that the Commission will work in a way which is:

- > Engaging and widely consultative across all of Scotland and civic society
- > Credible, objective and evidence-based
- > Outward looking, forward thinking and innovative

To enable the Commission to achieve this requirement, it has developed a phased approach to engagement.

3.2 First phase of engagement – initial call for evidence and contributions

In its first stage of work, the Commission would like to invite written submissions to inform its initial evidence gathering and analysis. The nature of this initial call recognises that a number of organisations and individuals will already have reflected on the issues and challenges in the scope of the Commission and will already have gathered or developed evidence themselves and be developing or have developed policy advice. Through this initial call for evidence, the Commission would like to draw on this store of knowledge and thinking.

In publishing its Initial Call for Evidence and Contributions, the Commission wishes to provide a wide range of individuals, representative bodies, public bodies and organisations who use, plan, manage, maintain, finance and deliver infrastructure with the opportunity to contribute to its work by submitting written evidence. Contributors will be entirely free to shape their submission according to their field of interest and concerns recognising the 30-year horizon the Commission is working to.

As a guide to assist those who wish to submit written evidence, an outline of strategic issues and questions that are likely to fall within scope of the Commission have been provided in Annex 1. Contributors may find it helpful to reflect on these, although there is no obligation to structure responses in accordance with these questions, nor to answer all the questions or address all the issues set out.

As you will appreciate, in order to manage the volume of evidence, the Commission is above all seeking brief yet pertinent responses at this stage.

Deadline and how to submit

Given the short timeframe available to the Commission in preparing its report and recommendations, the time that can be allocated to each stage of its work is necessarily limited.

You should therefore ensure that any written submissions are sent to the Commission Secretariat as soon as possible, but in any case, **no later than Friday 3 May 2019**. There are two ways in which you can submit:

Using the following email address:

initial.evidence@infrastructurecommission.scot

How you can contribute to the
work of the Commission (continued)

If you are unable to respond online, please send to:

The Infrastructure Commission for Scotland

PO Box 24137
Edinburgh
EH2 9AJ

When responding to this consultation please also complete a Respondent Information Form and return it with your submission. This form can be found [here](#), or by writing to the Infrastructure Commission for Scotland at the above address. Contact details for the Secretariat are given in Section 4 of this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our [privacy policy](#).

Follow up to the initial call for evidence

Once the Commission has drawn its initial analysis from the range of written submissions received, it is intended that it will meet with a cross-section of representative bodies, organisations and individuals, where it judges that further expert evidence in selected areas would be helpful to support its understanding of the issues and recommendations.

The Secretariat will contact those bodies and individuals the Commission wishes to meet in due course. This is unlikely to be before May 2019 to allow for analysis of the written evidence and contributions be undertaken.

3.3 Further opportunities for engagement

The Commissioners have committed fully to an approach which will be engaging and widely consultative. We aim to capture the expertise and opinions of people from across industry, business, the public sector, academia, civic society and the wider public; this will underpin all the Commission's work and recommendations. It is also recognised that in order to achieve this, a wide range of opportunities, beyond and in addition to this initial call for evidence, will need to be provided. Details of these wider engagement opportunities and events will be published by the Commission in the coming months.



04 Contact details

For any further information, please contact the Commission Secretariat:

Email: **enquiries@infrastructurecommission.scot**
Telephone: **0131 357 4492**
Website: **www.infrastructurecommission.scot**
Twitter: **@InfraCommScot**

A1 Annex 1: Issues and key questions within the scope of the Commission

In light of the requirement of the Commission to develop recommendations, it has set out below four key issues that it will be seeking to assess as part of its initial phase of evidence gathering.

1. The remit and in particular the Commission objectives provide an illustration of some key strategic drivers to an inclusive growth and low carbon economy:
 - a. What are your views on these drivers and are there any others that should be considered by the Commission?
 - b. What is the impact of these (and any additional) drivers on an inclusive growth and low carbon economy?
 - c. What are the key interactions and dependencies across these drivers?
 - d. What is the impact of each of them and cumulatively on Infrastructure demand and need now and for the future?
2. Infrastructure has a key role in relation to an Inclusive Growth and Low Carbon Economy:
 - a. What are your views on Scottish Government's definition of infrastructure as provided in the Commission remit, and are there any additional elements that should be considered, or areas that could be omitted?
 - b. What contribution does each of the infrastructure categories identified make to achieving an inclusive growth and low carbon economy?
 - c. What role and impact does each of the infrastructure categories identified have on the drivers identified in the Commission remit and objectives?
 - d. What are your views on the relative importance and impact of optimising whole life asset capacity through investment in enhanced renewals and maintenance compared to investing in and developing new infrastructure?
 - e. To what extent and in what way can infrastructure act as a catalyst for change in a place; be that at a community, local, strategic or national level?
 - f. To what extent and in what way can infrastructure act as a catalyst for:
 - i. increased economic investment and growth?
 - ii. improved service delivery?
 - iii. improved community cohesion?
3. The demand and need for the infrastructure assets included in the Commission remit is considerable and wide ranging. Across all the infrastructure assets identified:
 - a. What is your assessment of the current infrastructure stock in terms of quality of provision?
 - b. What is your assessment of the current infrastructure stock in terms of its capacity and fitness for purpose to meet current demand and needs?
 - c. What is your assessment of forecast future needs and demand for infrastructure and the key areas of change and development over a five and 30-year horizon?
 - d. What do you see as the priority areas for investment in order to enable these future needs and demands to be met?
 - e. Where do you see future convergence of need and demand having an impact across infrastructure classes?

Annex 1: Issues and key questions
within the scope of the Commission
(continued)

4. In relation to approaches to infrastructure assessment and prioritisation and across all the infrastructure assets identified:
 - a. What is your view on existing approaches to evaluation and assessment of infrastructure in Scotland?
 - b. What is your view of good practise approaches to evaluation and assessment of infrastructure internationally?
 - c. What is your view of existing approaches to the criteria and principles for investment prioritisation in Scotland?
 - d. What is your view of good practise approaches to the criteria and principles for investment prioritisation internationally?
 - e. What is your view on existing approaches and methodologies that enable cross infrastructure sector evaluation and assessment to be undertaken, and also the potential for further development of such approaches and methodologies?
 - f. What is your view on existing approaches and methodologies that asses impact at different spatial levels, and also the potential for further development of such approaches and methodologies?
 - g. What is you view on good practice approaches to assessing and establishing the post implementation impact on the desired outcomes from infrastructure investment?

In considering responses to this call could you:

- > Frame your submission in relation to both a five and 30-year time horizon.
- > Consider, where relevant to your area of expertise, the full range of infrastructure as defined by Scottish Government that includes, “the networks, connections and storage relating to enabling infrastructure of transport, energy, water, telecoms, digital and internet, to permit the ready movement of people, goods and services... as well as the built environment of housing; public infrastructure such as education, health, justice and cultural facilities; safety enhancement such as waste management or flood prevention; and public services such as emergency services and resilience”.
- > Provide evidence, research or reference to previous work undertaken that supports your submission.



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