

**National Network Manager
Trunk Roads: Network Management**

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
Direct Line: 0141 272 7342, Fax: 0141 272 7373
john.gooday@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk



[Redacted]

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Dear Sirs

ELECTION POSTERS ON TRUNK ROADS

Given the impending Scottish Parliament and Council elections I am writing to inform you that Transport Scotland has a policy **which precludes the placing of election material within the trunk road boundary**. This policy has been endorsed by Scottish Ministers.

The decision to keep trunk roads free of election material has been taken for a number of reasons:

- There is general agreement that driver distraction has a negative impact on road safety. Consequently, Transport Scotland's general position is to reduce to a minimum all but essential signage.
- There is also a potential safety issue connected to the erection and removal of posters etc particularly those which are inappropriately sited.
- A proliferation of election material from a number of sources can and often does result in a detrimental impact on the general amenity along the routes affected by election posters. Although the majority of election agents' act responsibly in organising the early removal of posters once the election has passed, additional resources often have to be targeted on ensuring the posters are removed and in some cases the posters have to be removed at Transport Scotland's expense.

Of course, this policy only applies to the Scottish trunk road network, for which Transport Scotland has operational responsibility. The placing of election posters within local roads boundaries is a matter for individual Councils.

I should be grateful if you could inform your elections agents of this policy.

If you require any further clarification of this policy then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gooday".

**JOHN GOODAY
NATIONAL NETWORK MANAGER**

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