



Inspector E Fitzgibbon
Police Scotland
Aberdeen City Division
Queen St
ABERDEEN

30 March 2015

By email to Aberdeencityopsplanning@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Dear Inspector Fitzgibbon,

Pedal on Parliament – Aberdeen (Hazlehead Park to Marischal College on 25th April 2015)

I write further to our meeting on 9th March and your letter of the same date handed to me at the meeting.

The matter was discussed at the Forum's meeting on 24th March and it was agreed that we should write to you with a further statement of our intentions and a response to some of the points raised in your letter.

1. You will not be surprised that the Forum found the content of your letter and the fact that Police Scotland appear to be against any cycle event on public roads as a matter of policy to be disappointing. However we are grateful for the confirmation that we are at liberty to proceed.
2. We would like to clarify that we are not proposing a "*sponsored, fun and athletic event*" as it is described in your letter. We are proposing no more than a peaceful assertion of the right to ride a bicycle on public roads, with the purpose of raising the profile of cycling in Aberdeen. If doing so is dangerous, then it is no more than many cyclists in Aberdeen have to contend with on a daily basis. Further detail of the rationale behind the Pedal on Parliament movement is available on their website at pedalonparliament.org.

3. The policy position of being against any cycle event on public roads seems to be based on the premise that it is dangerous. That seems to us to be an unwitting endorsement of why it is necessary to hold a ride such as Pedal on Parliament.
4. We are aware that the principal Pedal on Parliament ride in Edinburgh has taken place in each year since 2012. We understand from the organisers that they have a good relationship with the Police and that Officers have attended and even ridden along with other participants. This seems difficult to reconcile with the position set out in your letter and suggests that the Police do have more discretion to help facilitate such an event than your letter suggests.
5. We are aware that Aberdeen does now have some cycling Police Officers, and we would like to take this opportunity to invite them to join with the ride.
6. One of the recommendations of ACC Events staff was that we notify emergency services. Please take this letter as such notification at least as far as Police Scotland is concerned.
7. Your letter concludes with the statement that in the event of a collision, the document would be freely available for reference. That being so, we presume that you will have no objection to your letter and this response being made public now by being posted on the Forum's website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jyll Skinner', written over a horizontal line.

Jyll Skinner
Chair, Aberdeen Cycle Forum
info@aberdeencycleforum.org.uk