

## Press Release

**Date: 7 December 2011 – 1000 hrs – Update 6**

### **Landslip A83 – 0.5 miles east of RABT**

Public safety remains our main priority and we appreciate the patience shown by those affected by the impact of the landslip at the Rest and Be Thankful.

Following the landslip in the early hours of Thursday morning, work concluded on Friday evening to clear the road of around 120 tonnes of mud and boulders, clean the road surface and drainage systems, and have additional safety mitigation measures put in place.

At present the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful is open to emergency vehicles around the clock, and open to general traffic during daylight hours only. Diversions for general traffic via the A819, A85 and A82 remain in place during the hours of darkness.

This operational decision was taken by road partners following surveys on the slopes above the road by geotechnical experts which are only possible during daylight hours when the slope is clearly visible.

The recent heavy and prolonged snow fall over the weekend with further snow falls since has severely hindered detailed monitoring of the soils on the slope.

Following a review by parties from Transport Scotland, Scotland TranServ and Transport Research Laboratories (TRL) this morning (Tuesday), it was decided that the only option was to continue with the current arrangements until a further assessment can be made.

Geotechnical expert Dr Mike Winter from TRL said:

“Visual monitoring of the hillside is continuing during the day, but given the current snow cover it is simply not possible to closely monitor the hillside soils during the hours of darkness.

Further weather reports from the Met Office show it likely that further detailed observations may be possible on Thursday when it is hoped the soils will be visible. This will allow a detailed assessment of any movement on the hillside to be evaluated and to determine stability and safety.”

Minister for Housing and Transport, Keith Brown added:

"It is evident that in light of events last week and the additional poor weather since, we have been left with no option but to continue with the present arrangement. It is designed first and foremost to protect the safety of drivers using the road and road workers, whilst accommodating the needs for people to go about their business. I would stress we are doing everything we can to minimise the impact on the local community and get the road fully open as soon as is practically possible."

The situation will be reviewed again on Thursday (8th) and a decision on whether to fully re-open the road will be made then. In the interim, all parties are looking closely at what extra monitoring and slope stabilisation options are available to bring forward the full opening of the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful.

For real time information visit [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org). The **Traffic Scotland Radio** Service can also be for real time journey planning in found on the website and will have regular updates to listen to for anyone with internet access.

Motorists should allow extra time for their journeys and pay attention to any advisory signs which will be in place throughout the works.

Follow our progress on [www.twitter.com/scot\\_transerv](https://www.twitter.com/scot_transerv) or

[www.twitter.com/trafficscotland](https://www.twitter.com/trafficscotland)

Diversion for traffic in both directions will be via A83 Inveraray – A819 Dalmally – A85 Tyndrum – A82 Tarbet. This will add an extra 26 miles to the journey