

Dear Mr Reid,

First of all I am sorry that I was unable to attend the last meeting of the Cowal Transport Forum, I am also giving up my role as ATTG project officer at the end of the month to start full time employment with Ridings Sawmills (Cardross) Ltd who I currently work with part time. I will of course pass information and copies of correspondence to my replacement who will be starting early April.

In answer to your specific questions:

1. The A 885 through Sandbank holds the status of an Agreed Route on the ATTG Agreed Routes Map (ARM). This applies to all A class roads and the Trunk road network in Argyll and therefore there is no requirement on this road for any further voluntary agreements to be put in place, the road is perfectly adequate and has the capacity to sustain standard fully loaded haulage vehicles which covers timber lorries as well as general delivery HGV's etc

2. When there is a strategic in-forest haul route which can be used to avoid fragile public roads then this will generally be used instead of the public road network, we usually estimate that where a strategic in-forest route has been put in place this will remove around 80% of the timber traffic from the public road in question.

Sometimes there are specific reasons for not using an in-forest route such as - bad weather, in-forest road conditions, the location of specific harvesting blocks in the forest are perhaps better accessed via the public road network, environmental constraints, prohibitive costs of using an in-forest route. It is never simply a case of assuming that if there is an in-forest road it will be used for *all* timber haulage but I can assure you that ATTG as an industry group do make every effort to ensure that the most sensible choices are made whenever possible.

Timber lorries are no different to any other vehicles on the public road network in that they must adhere to the national speed limits and laws. Timber hauliers like all responsible haulage companies will advise and encourage their employees to be considerate and careful drivers at all times.

3. Timber lorry drivers are expected to sweep off and clear their vehicles of all loose materials and debris before they leave the delivery point, in the case of the timber pier at Sandbank there is a specific area designated for this. I will ask our local hauliers to remind their drivers that they need to be particularly vigilant when leaving the pier as there have been concerns raised.

Best regards,

Kirsty.

Kirsty Robb

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