

Response from Alistair Graham
Address Confidential

I was furious when I read your proposals for charging an additional fee for lone drivers on the Forth Road Bridge. Why do you assume everyone crossing the bridge is heading to or from Edinburgh? I live in Bonnyrigg and work at Lexmark in Rosyth, I work twelve-hour shifts rotating days and nights. This means that I can sometimes have a fifteen-hour day depending on the levels of congestion. There is no alternative transport option for me and you are proposing to penalise me for it. I was happy with my job in Ferranti at Dalkeith until the plant closed, but now like many other engineers I have to travel further afield to find skilled work. I have colleagues who travel from as far away as Glasgow, Perth, East Lothian and the Borders to work at Rosyth. It is preposterous that in addition to the current bridge toll (which is due to rise) we will be further penalised due to the fact there is not an alternative transport method. If government ministers spent more time and energy trying to rejuvenate industry in the satellite towns around Edinburgh we would not have to travel so far to find work and road congestion would therefore reduce. You just need to look at the city bypass in the morning where the heaviest flow of traffic is west bound, clearly an imbalance of industry and commerce placement around the city.

Alistair Graham
