6 December 2017

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Dear Sir/Madam

B9123 HARBOUR ROAD, GARDENSTOWN
EMERGENCY ROAD CLOSURE

As you may be aware, since the recent landslide adjacent to Harbour Road we have been working to contain and stabilise any loose material from the embankment above the road.

However after further site inspections this morning and on the advice of our consultant geologists we have reluctantly taken the decision to close Harbour Road, Gardenstown with immediate effect.

After the removal of loose material from the bank on Monday and Tuesday by the rope access team further measures were due to take place this afternoon installing a mesh curtain on the bank to provide added protection to the access team and to road users. However further movement occurred in the embankment overnight and this, along with heavy rain today and severe weather warnings for the coming days has meant that it was considered too dangerous (and the bank too unstable) for protection works to advance sufficiently to allow the road to remain open. Therefore we have reluctantly taken the decision to close the road.

For an undefined period following this road closure it may be possible to allow local residents and businesses in the lower part of Gardenstown to remove their vehicles to higher ground during daylight hours under traffic control by site staff or Police Scotland (but I stress that this possibility will be under constant review). Please discuss this with site staff who will be able to advise further.

Police Scotland have been notified and, as far as possible, we are attempting to contact all local residents and businesses to advise them of the situation as soon as possible.
Council officers including the Emergency Planning Unit are currently discussing the closure with emergency planning partners (incl Scottish Fire & Rescue, Scottish Ambulance and Police Scotland) to consider the impact and prepare an emergency plan for the area.

I appreciate that a road closure will have a severe effect on both residents and businesses in the lower half of the village and therefore all attempts will be made to reopen the road as soon as possible, however public safety remains our top priority.

Further updates will be provided as and when information becomes available.

Yours faithfully

Alistair Millar  
Senior Roads Engineer (Banff & Buchan)