

Making tracks for the climate

Message sent: Saturday 31 July 2021

Subject: Journey to Glasgow

Hi Sam,

I'm really looking forward to meeting you in the flesh at last. Online conferences are all very well but sometimes you want to meet face to face, and stand shoulder to shoulder.

My train tickets are all booked for November. Did I tell you that my granny was Scottish? She used to sing a folk song that went something like this:

'You'll take the high road and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in Scotland before you'.

Well now I'm taking the 'iron road', as they say in French, although I suppose it will be the 'low road' when we reach the Channel Tunnel. Meanwhile, I expect you'll want to avoid the high roads and take the flattest route possible. I admire your courage, but give me the train any day.

I'll think of you as I'm winging my way across Europe at high speed. I'll be able to study on the train, so missing a few days of university won't matter so much. And thanks to the sleeper, I don't have to stop travelling at night. I love sleeping on trains, as long as there's no one snoring their head off in the next bunk!

No doubt there'll be other people on the train going where we're going. That's why I've been practising my language skills, so that I can talk to them. After all, when we get there, we need to speak with one voice.

Cheers,

Mel

Dear Mel,

Yes, it will be so refreshing (and a bit weird!) to have a real-world meeting after this endless virtual contact.

And after all my campaigning for sustainable mobility, I thought I should put my money where my mouth is, so I will be packing my possessions into my panniers and cycling all the way from my home in Donegal on the west coast of Ireland to the climate conference in Glasgow. Well, not the whole way – I'll need a ferry to help negotiate the watery bit in the middle! But I'm really looking forward to mounting my trusty steed and getting those

pedals turning. I reckon it should take me about four days to make it to 'Glesga', as they call it in the Scots language. I hope I won't be too saddle-sore!

I was so thrilled to be selected for the youth delegation that will meet with EU leaders inside the venue just before the talks. I have been practising the speech I'll give them about the importance of pushing for the strongest global action possible. I'm hoping nerves won't get the better of me.

Let's make sure that between us – with you and the other demonstrators outside singing chants and waving placards, and me and the rest of the deputation trying to get the politicians to see sense inside – we can get some real change going at last.

See you soon!

Sam