



for sustainable transport

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The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

Wednesday 18th August 2010

Dear Minister

East Coast rail services North of Edinburgh

I understand that an option under consideration is the termination of London services on the East Coast Main Line at Edinburgh. I am writing to express our grave concern over this matter and to explain why this is not an option that makes any sense in terms of the UK's future transport needs.

Making people change trains in Edinburgh will clearly lead to loss of patronage as travellers opt for other modes; our figures suggest that this is typically a 25% loss. Clearly this is just the opposite of what we are trying to achieve in our transport mix.

We face the combined challenges of reducing climate change emissions and enhancing our energy security by reducing our dependence on oil. Transport is currently a major consumer of oil and climate change emissions from transport continue to rise. For both reasons it is clear that we need to grow rail's modal share and indeed pursue rail electrification schemes.

You will no doubt be aware that the Scottish Government set out in its Strategic Transport Projects Review a commitment to electrify the Scottish strategic rail network. It is our belief that this is the correct way forward and we would propose that the DfT work with the Scottish Government to programme the electrification of the Aberdeen and Inverness to Edinburgh rail lines so that electric trains can run through to Aberdeen and Inverness, and cost savings be made to the Intercity Express Programme by removing the need for specifying diesel or hybrid power trains.

Indeed, we would further suggest that this should be an integral component of the East Coast franchise when it is re-let.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Tetlaw', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Tetlaw
Chair, Transform Scotland

cc: Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, Scottish Government

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