

From: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 09 May 2023 17:16
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Bill Reeve
<Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Press Transport
Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot
Subject: RE: For Mr Stewart's views - Daily Mail - Ministerial involvement in rail engineering work
decision

Hi

The lines have not issued as I was waiting on SpAds confirming they are content.

I can issue the lines as follows to keep them all together – I will attach the EIR response also (it was cleared before issue).

Jenny Gilruth, Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills (and former Transport Minister) said:

“The proposed decarbonisation works on this vital rail line would have caused significant disruption across the whole East coast of Scotland – including for passengers travelling across Fife, Dundee, Perth and Aberdeen.

“As I always did as Transport Minister, I carefully interrogated such proposals to assess their impact on passengers – and in this case I was not content that everything was being done to minimise inconvenience over the busy festive period. It is worth pointing out that services had already been impacted by ongoing industrial action and unplanned cancellations at that time.

“I therefore asked Network Rail to postpone the works, which they agreed to do, to give time to engage with the communities which would be impacted by the closure.

“While safety considerations are obviously paramount, I believe that the needs of passengers should be front and centre of such decisions, which in this case related to a Scottish Government funded piece of work which was not operational in nature. Indeed, the UK passenger watchdog, Transport Focus, welcomed the postponement at the time.”

Background

Transport Focus comment, November 2022: “Rail travel has been disrupted for passengers over the festive period for the past two years. This change will be of benefit to passengers travelling over the festive period. It’s important that disruptive engineering work is designed to keep passenger inconvenience to a minimum that takes full account of changing travel patterns.” Festive closure of Edinburgh-Fife rail line shelved after passenger dissatisfaction with ScotRail | The Scotsman

Additional background on decision making process

- The previous Minister for Transport was not satisfied that Network Rail had examined all possibilities for alternatives to the planned festive closures in relation to these works and asked for more information.
- Following consideration of additional information provided by Network Rail, the previous Minister for Transport was not sufficiently satisfied full consideration had been given to the impact of the proposed closures on those passengers most affected not only in Fife but also in Perth, Dundee and Aberdeen.
- This resulted in a Ministerial decision to postpone the works.
- This investment to decarbonise Fife rail services currently remains postponed while we work with Network Rail to consider revised proposals in terms of timing and available budget
- Once this work is complete, we will be able to give a further update on these particular works.
- The attached EIR response gives more detail about the decision-making process

ENDS

Thanks

Sarah

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills
Sent: 09 May 2023 17:10
To: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Bill Reeve <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Mr Stewart's views - Daily Mail - Ministerial involvement in rail engineering work decision

Hi Sarah,

Can you confirm if these lines have issued yet? [REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[REDACTED] | E: cabsecforES@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

From: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 09 May 2023 16:34

To: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Bill Reeve
<Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Press Transport
Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Mr Stewart's views - Daily Mail - Ministerial involvement in rail engineering work decision

Afternoon

Our Director of Rail (who is out of office today) has come back with some updates (as per below) to the Background info. [REDACTED]

Grateful if SpAds can confirm they are content with the revised background and also to confirm if SG Comms/SpAds will issue the line from Ms Gilruth in her role as Cab Sec E&S/former MFT

Background info

- The previous Minister for Transport was not satisfied that Network Rail had examined all possibilities for alternatives to the planned festive closures in relation to these works and asked for more information.
- Following consideration of additional information provided by Network Rail, the previous Minister for Transport was not sufficiently satisfied full consideration had been given to the impact of the proposed closures on those passengers most affected not only in Fife but also in Perth, Dundee and Aberdeen.
- This resulted in a Ministerial decision to postpone the works.

- This investment to decarbonise Fife rail services currently remains postponed while we work with Network Rail to consider revised proposals in terms of timing and available budget
- Once this work is complete, we will be able to give a further update on these particular works.
- The attached EIR response gives more detail about the decision-making process (need to decide if we wish to include)

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills
Sent: 09 May 2023 15:32
To: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>
Cc: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Bill Reeve <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot
Subject: RE: For Mr Stewart's views - Daily Mail - Ministerial involvement in rail engineering work decision

Hi all,

Cab Sec has come back to say the below looks good to her, as long as Spads/Comms are also content.

Here is the comment from Ms Gilruth, as discussed with spads:

“The proposed decarbonisation works on this vital rail line would have caused significant disruption across the whole East coast of Scotland – including for passengers travelling across Fife, Dundee, Perth and Aberdeen.

“As I always did as Transport Minister, I carefully interrogated such proposals to assess their impact on passengers – and in this case I was not content that everything was being done to minimise inconvenience over the busy festive period. It is worth pointing out that services had already been impacted by ongoing industrial action and unplanned cancellations at that time.

“I therefore asked Network Rail to postpone the works, which they agreed to do, to give time to engage with the communities which would be impacted by the closure.

“While safety considerations are obviously paramount, I believe that the needs of passengers should be front and centre of such decisions, which in this case related to a Scottish Government funded piece of work which was not operational in nature. Indeed, the UK passenger watchdog, Transport Focus, welcomed the postponement at the time.”

[Background](#)

Transport Focus comment, November 2022: "Rail travel has been disrupted for passengers over the festive period for the past two years. This change will be of benefit to passengers travelling over the festive period. It's important that disruptive engineering work is designed to keep passenger inconvenience to a minimum that takes full account of changing travel patterns." [Festive closure of Edinburgh-Fife rail line shelved after passenger dissatisfaction with ScotRail | The Scotsman](#)

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: CabSecforES@gov.scot

The Cabinet Secretary's preferences can be found [here](#).

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From: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 09 May 2023 14:32
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>;
Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>
Cc: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Bill Reeve
<Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Press Transport
Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: For Mr Stewart's views - Daily Mail - Ministerial involvement in rail engineering work decision

Afternoon [REDACTED]

Having discussed with officials we would propose providing the following as additional background to the original lines issued rather than send new ones.

Grateful if you can confirm if you are content with this approach and with our providing the EIR response that is already in the public domain. Once I have your view, I will share with MfT and Ms Gilruth for comment.

Background info

- The previous Minister for Transport was not satisfied that Network Rail had examined all possibilities for alternatives to the planned festive closures in relation to these works and asked for more information.
- Following consideration of additional information provided by Network Rail, the previous Minister for Transport was not sufficiently satisfied full consideration had been given to the impact of the proposed closures on those passengers most affected not only in Fife but also in Perth, Dundee and Aberdeen.
- This resulted in a Ministerial decision to postpone the works.
- This investment to decarbonise Fife rail services currently remains postponed while the planned three-year review of the Decarbonisation Action Plan is undertaken.
- The [Rail Services Decarbonisation Action Plan](#) was first published in 2020 and at the time it was stated the plan was intended to be dynamic, with a first review due in spring 2023
- That review is currently underway and is expected to ensure we continue to prioritise the right projects, in the right place, at the right time in line with available budgets.
- Once that review is complete, we will be able to update on the status of projects across the decarbonisation programme including these particular works.
- The attached EIR response gives more detail about the decision-making process (need to decide if we wish to include)

Kind regards



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills
Sent: 11 May 2023 10:57
To: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; Bettina Sizeland <Bettina.Sizeland@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Minister for Transport - bus taskforce - minutes clearance

Hi [REDACTED],

Ms Gilruth is content with the amendments.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MSP

Scottish Government | St Andrews's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mob: [REDACTED] | **Email:** CabSecforES@gov.scot

The Cabinet Secretary's preferences can be found [here](#).

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From: [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 10 May 2023 15:44
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills <CabSecforES@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Transport <MinisterforT@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@transport.gov.scot>;
Bettina Sizeland <Bettina.Sizeland@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Minister for Transport - bus taskforce - minutes clearance

Good afternoon,

As Transport Minister Ms Gilruth cleared the minutes for the third bus taskforce meeting and these were circulated to members, one of the members came back to request a minor amendment to one of the bullet points.

One of the actions has been amended from:

- There was a suggestion to look at improving coordination across fleets in local authorities, such as school transport. (Action – ATCO/CoSLA)

To:

- There was a suggestion to look again at Shared Services / improving coordination across passenger transport fleets in local authorities, non-emergency patient transport services, DRT services and Community Transport. (Action – SG / ATCO/CoSLA)

Mr Stewart is content for this to be cleared at DD level but has asked for confirmation that Ms Gilruth is also content and/or does not wish to clear herself.

I have attached a copy of the minutes.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]



Bus Taskforce Meeting – Minutes
14 December 2022 – 09:30 – 11:00 via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Minister for Transport - Jenny Gilruth
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Transport – Richard Holden
Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) Scotland, Director - Paul White
Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT), Chief Executive – Graham Vidler
West Coast Motors and Borders Buses, CEO and Managing Director - Colin Craig
First Bus Scotland, Managing Director & CPT, Chair - Duncan Cameron
COSLA, Policy Officer – [redacted]
HiTrans, Director - Ranald Robertson
Stagecoach West Scotland, Managing Director - Fiona Doherty
Community Transport Association, Director for Scotland – David Kelly
Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers, Vice-chair [redacted]
Bus Users Scotland, Director – Greig Mackay
McGill's, CEO - Ralph Roberts
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, Head of Bus Strategy & Delivery [redacted]
Transport Focus, Senior Stakeholder Manager – [redacted]
Lothian, Managing Director – Sarah Boyd
Stagecoach Buses – Sam Greer
Transport Scotland, Director of BAAT - Bettina Sizeland
Transport Scotland, BAAT officials
Department for Transport, Senior Policy Advisor – [redacted]
Department for Transport Officials Supporting Minister Holden

Apologies

Traffic Commissioner – Claire Gilmore
Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers, Chair – [redacted]
Scottish Citylink, Operations Director – Simone Smith (SS)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Discussion with Richard Holden MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Roads and Local Transport
3. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting
4. Taskforce Sub- groups – Update from Chairs
5. Bus Update from SPT and COSLA

1. Welcome extended to all attendees from Minister for Transport.

2. Discussion with Richard Holden MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Roads and Local Transport

- Shortage Occupation List is a matter for the Home Office. Half of Ukrainians in the UK with transport experience are now working in the sector.
- DVLA prioritise passenger transport and HGVs and are aiming for normal medical waiting times by February. DVSA are also prioritising bus tests. Average wait time of under 2 weeks in Scotland for vocational CPC - shorter than the UK average.
- There are legislation challenges to using online licence results rather than waiting for physical licence, but Minister Holden will look to push this.

- Minister Holden wants to see energy crisis support for businesses come through as quickly as possible.
- The allowance payment rate of 45p per mile has not been reviewed since 2012. The Treasury has advised that the 45p per mile rate is a guideline, so a higher rate can be applied. The reimbursement model is complex due to the requirement to go through local councils. **(Action – DfT officials)**
- UK Government is considering running a marketing campaign aimed at older people to encourage patronage growth in spring/summer 2023. **(Action – DfT)**
- TS to share work of the Driver Shortage subgroup with DfT **(Action – TS/DfT)**

3. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

- Educational programme to tackle anti-social behaviour on public transport. **(Action – TS/CPT)**
- Discrepancy between LAs and Scottish Government approaches to removing school bus passes and NEC cards. **(Action – TS)**
- Impact of anti-social behaviour on drivers leading to sickness and stress. **(Action – TS)**

4. Taskforce Subgroups – Chairs of each subgroup provided updates.

5. Bus Service Provision – Update from SPT and COSLA

- CoSLA engaging with three LAs struggling with U22s uptake. **(Action – CD).**
 - SPT hitting pre-Covid patronage levels but have concerns around tender renewal process and filling gaps in the network without the necessary budget.
-

Actions:

- **DfT officials to provide TS with further information on 2023 patronage growth marketing campaign.**
- **DfT officials to write on behalf of Minister Holden to TS about reimbursement rates.**
- **TS officials to compose letters to the Home Office on: Ukrainian exchange agreement; and SOL.**
- **TS officials to share work of the Driver Shortage subgroup with DfT. Minister Holden’s team to share updates with TS.**
- **TS officials to explore inclusion of behaviour guidance in marketing campaign with CPT.**
- **TS officials to invite Police Scotland representatives to the Taskforce.**
- **TS officials to provide advice to the Minister on short-term removal of NEC cards in relation to repeated instances of anti-social behaviour.**
- **[redacted] (CoSLA) to follow up with Cllr Macgregor on Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Western Isles U22s uptake.**
- **TS officials to draft a Ministerial letter to Minister Holden covering the questions raised in this meeting.**
- **TS officials to provide an update to members in January and PO to arrange next meeting date.**