

202300338943

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 January 2023 16:06

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Cab Sec Briefing - NZET Committee - Key Themes Q&A

Dear PO,

Please find attached responses to the key themes circulated by [REDACTED] this afternoon.

If you have any queries, please do let us know.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

Additional Thematic Briefing for Committee Session 17 January:

Fair Fares Review and Bus Travel

- **The rationale behind the peak fares announcement**
 - There is a clear case for increasing the attractiveness of public transport as part of measures to reduce transport emissions. Reducing public transport fares is one mechanism to do that. The Scottish Government is already progressing the Fair Fares Review to ensure a sustainable and integrated approach to public transport fares that supports the long-term viability of our public transport system as we recover from the pandemic.
 - As part of the recent Draft Budget, the Scottish Government will put £15 million into the Fair Fares Review. This will specifically focus on taking forward a Fair Fares Review Pathfinder Pilot to reduce peak rail fares, as a way of making rail travel more attractive and affordable and encourage the use of rail over the private car. This pilot project will also provide an opportunity to trial a new approach to public transport fares in response to the changes in travel patterns and demand that we have experienced since the onset of the pandemic.

- The pilot will operate over a six-month period, commencing in the next financial year, and the Government will consider carefully the impact of that measure and the long-term sustainability of such a proposition.

[Out of Scope]

- **What level of funding will be allocated?**
 - £15m has been allocated to the pathfinder project looking at the removal of peak rail fares.
 - No additional funding has been specifically allocated for pathfinder projects. All options will be assessed for cost, affordability and feasibility prior to any allocation of funding.

[Out of Scope]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 January 2023 12:00

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: Net Zero Committee

Suggested themes for the Net Zero Committee

Fair fares review and bus travel - **Bettina Sizeland (CBF/Bus reform)**[REDACTED]
Bill Reeve (Rail Peak Fares)

- The rationale behind the peak fares announcement – **Bill**[REDACTED]
- The process of choosing other fare review pathfinder projects – [REDACTED]
- What level of funding will be allocated? - [REDACTED]

[Out of Scope]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 January 2023 15:00

To: Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot[REDACTED]> Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot[REDACTED]> Sizeland B (Bettina) <Bettina.Sizeland@transport.gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Net Zero Committee

Hi Kerry

I hope you're well. This contribution is a joint effort with the Transport Futures Team:

- The rationale behind the peak fares announcement – **Bill**[REDACTED]

There is a clear case for increasing the attractiveness of public transport as part of measures to reduce transport emissions. Reducing public transport fares is one mechanism to do that. The Scottish Government is already progressing the Fair Fares Review to ensure a sustainable and integrated approach to public transport fares that

supports the long term viability of our public transport system as we recover from the pandemic.

As part of the recent Draft Budget, the Scottish Government will put £15 million into the Fair Fares Review. This will specifically focus on taking forward a Fair Fares Review Pathfinder Pilot to reduce peak rail fares, as a way of making rail travel more attractive and affordable and encourage the use of rail over the private car. This pilot project will also provide an opportunity to trial a new approach to public transport fares in response to the changes in travel patterns and demand that we have experienced since the onset of the pandemic.

The pilot will operate over a six-month period in the course of the next financial year, and the Government will consider carefully the impact of that measure and the long-term sustainability of such a proposition.

[REDACTED]

Transport Scotland

[REDACTED]

From[REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport

Sent: 18 January 2023 11:11

To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Twyman K (Kerry)

<Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] **Subject:** RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - [REDACTED]

Hi Danny,

Ms Gilruth has noted the lines issued for her interests.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

[REDACTED] Email: CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 January 2023 21:17

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot**[REDACTED]**>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: **[REDACTED]** Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot**[REDACTED]**>
Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot**[REDACTED]**>

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - **[REDACTED]**

Issued, thanks all.

From [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 17 January 2023 21:09

To [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: **[REDACTED]** >; Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot>; **[REDACTED]**
Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot**[REDACTED]**>

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - **[REDACTED]**

Hi **[REDACTED]**,

Cab Sec is content with the lines as suggested below for his interests. To note that he has had sight of Bill's response to his query.

Thanks,

[REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 January 2023 20:43

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: **[REDACTED]** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>**[REDACTED]**
Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot>**[REDACTED]**

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - **[REDACTED]**

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said:

“The removal of peak fares would apply to all routes in the course of a series of controlled trials over a six month period, final details of the timing of these controlled trials are currently being developed.”

Background

We have committed £15 million as part of the fair fares review to take forward an exercise to remove peak rail fares. It will operate over a six-month period, commencing in the next financial year, and the Government will consider carefully the impact of this measure and the long-term sustainability of such a proposition.

We are aiming to carry out the pilot to remove peak fares on the rail network on a national basis. Officials continue to work closely with Scottish Rail Holdings (SRH) and ScotRail to derive maximum benefit for this scheme. The Cabinet Secretary was referring to this ongoing work in his evidence to Committee and further details of the pilot will be announced in due course.

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 17 January 2023 20:36

To: Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED] cc: [REDACTED] Brown F (Fiona) (TS)

<Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Twyman K (Kerry)

<Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED].

[REDACTED s.30(b)(i)]

Cab Sec has asked if can please amend the lines to state that the details are still being developed and that it will be tested on a national basis by testing it on different routes during the pilot period [REDACTED s.30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED], can you take both sets of comments into account and amend and I will put to Mr Matheson with urgency given DFM's steer to get these issued.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

[REDACTED] | Email: CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 17 January 2023 20:27

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED s.30(b)(i)]

[REDACTED s.30(b)(i)]

Bill Reeve

From: [REDACTED] > On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 17 January 2023 20:06

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot> [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED s.30(b)(i)]

Grateful if, given Mr Matheson's query, rail officials can add anything further in terms of official's advice and I will feed back to Cab Sec.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

[REDACTED] | Email: CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 17 January 2023 19:38

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED]**; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

cc: **[REDACTED]**; Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot> **[REDACTED]** Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot> **[REDACTED]** Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot> **[REDACTED]** Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - **[REDACTED]**

[REDACTED],

DFM has noted.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[REDACTED] | E: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

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Scottish Ministers, **[REDACTED]** and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: **[REDACTED]** On Behalf Of Minister for Transport

Sent: 17 January 2023 19:19

To: **[REDACTED]** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: **[REDACTED]** Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot**[REDACTED]**>; Chief

Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot**[REDACTED]**>; Twyman K (Kerry)

<Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot**[REDACTED]**> Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot **[REDACTED]**

Thanks **[REDACTED]**. Adding in Cab Sec NZET box.

[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |

Mobile: **[REDACTED]** | **Email:** CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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Scottish Ministers, **[REDACTED]** and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: **[REDACTED]** **Sent:** 17 January 2023 19:18

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet

Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity <CabSecTIC@gov.scot>

Cc[REDACTED] Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot[REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot[REDACTED] Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot[REDACTED] Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>
Subject: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - [REDACTED]

PO DFM

PO Cab Sec

CC PO MfT

Good evening, and sorry for the late request.

We have received late queries from the [REDACTED] seeking clarification on comments made by Mr Matheson at Committee earlier today regarding the pilot to remove peak rail fares. They argue Mr Matheson commented that the £15m pilot to scrap peak rail fares was ‘not removing them from across the network entirely’ and that it would only be ‘on a particular route or routes’. They believe this contradicts DFM comments post budget where they claim Mr Swinney responded to questions about the extent of the pilot by saying it ‘was going to be across the whole country’.

The story is already running on the [REDACTED] and this lifts large parts of a party release that was issued on this pilot post-budget.

The following lines have been cleared by TS Finance Director, Rail Director and [REDACTED] cleared a similar line earlier this afternoon (attached). With apologies for the short notice, grateful for clearance/thoughts.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said:

“We have committed £15 million as part of the fair fares review to take forward an exercise to remove peak rail fares. It will operate over a six-month period, commencing

in the next financial year, and the Government will consider carefully the impact of this measure and the long-term sustainability of such a proposition.

“We aim to carry out the pilot to remove peak fares on the rail network on a national basis. Officials continue to work closely with Scottish Rail Holdings (SRH) and ScotRail to derive maximum benefit for this scheme. The Cabinet Secretary was referring to this ongoing work in his evidence to Committee and further details of the pilot will be announced in due course”.

Ends

From: Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 19 January 2023 10:59

To: [REDACTED]; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] and Colleagues,

With apologies because of IT difficulties, you may receive two replies to this, one from [REDACTED] email box.

The Ministers' decision on this is understood and noted , and on that basis I can confirm that your revised lines are appropriate.

Regards,

Bill Reeve

Director of Rail

Transport Scotland

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 Jan 2023 10:42

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; "Reeve W (Bill)" <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; "Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport" <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; "[REDACTED]"

cc: [REDACTED]"Brown F (Fiona) (TS)" <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot>; "[REDACTED]"; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; "[REDACTED]"; "Twyman K (Kerry)" <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot>; "[REDACTED]"

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - [REDACTED]

Bill

Apologies for coming to this late and thank you for the helpful discussion last night and this morning.

I have discussed with FM, DFM, Mr Matheson and Ms Gilruth. Ministers are clear that the position is as announced and articulated publicly by the DFM – that the pilot will last six months and will apply to all routes for the totality of that period.

Inevitably it will be the case that further substantive advice will be required not least on the design of the pilot and on how we measure 'success'. There may also be a need to write to the Committee on Mr Matheson's behalf but I will leave that issue to colleagues.

[REDACTED s.30(b)(i)]

In the meantime, an amended FMQ brief is attached.

Regards

[REDACTED]



Scottish Ministers, [REDACTED]

and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: [REDACTED]

On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 18 January 2023 19:47

To: Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot> [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]

Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Lines to clear - peak rail fares pilot - [REDACTED]

Colleagues,

Copying in [REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

[REDACTED] | Email: DFMCSCR@gov.scot

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From: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Sent: 19 January 2023 16:22

To: [REDACTED]

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]

>; Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

>; Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

- peak rail fares pilot - lines for clearance

[REDACTED]

I am content for this to issue based on the DFM and MfT clearance.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, 19 Jan 2023 at 4:19 pm

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>, [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>, Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED], Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED] Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

- peak rail fares pilot - lines for clearance

PO Cab Sec NZET,

Is Mr Matheson content to clear for his interests?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: **[REDACTED]** On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

Sent: 19 January 2023 14:56

To: **[REDACTED]** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery

<DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

cc: **[REDACTED]** Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot**[REDACTED]**> Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot**[REDACTED]**>

Subject: RE: **[REDACTED]**- peakrail fares pilot - lines for clearance

[REDACTED],

DFM is content to clear.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Office of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG **[REDACTED]** | Email:

DFMCSCR@gov.scot

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meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 19 January 2023 12:35

To: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery <DFMCSCR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] Brown F (Fiona) (TS) <Fiona.Brown@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot> [REDACTED]; Twyman K (Kerry) <Kerry.Twyman@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED] Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED] - peak rail fares pilot - lines for clearance

POs DFM, Cab Sec NZET and MfT,

We've been asked for comment on the peak fares pilot by [REDACTED], following a press release from Clare Baker MSP. She's calling for Fife lines to be included in the pilot, following the press coverage of Mr Matheson's comments at Committee earlier this week.

Policy and [REDACTED] have cleared the updated response below, which is in line with the latest FMQ brief. Grateful for clearance from all three Ministers, please.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

A TS spokesperson said:

"The peak-fares pilot will apply to all routes for the whole six months, commencing in the next financial year.

"Work on the precise methodology and design is ongoing, with Transport Scotland officials working closely with Scottish Rail Holdings and ScotRail to derive maximum benefit for this scheme."

Background info:

- *We have committed £15m as part of the fair fares review to take forward a pilot to evaluate the removal of peak rail fares.*
- *The Cabinet Secretary was referring to this ongoing work in his evidence to Committee this week (Wed 17 January) and further details of the pilot will be announced in due course.*