

From: [redacted s38]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 4:57 PM
To: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>
Subject: Fife Festive plan
Importance: High

[redacted s38]

Just had a good chat with [redacted s38] and he has provided detailed information on the Festive Blockade (below) – this is very welcome, but also frustrating as I was told by SRH that information would only be available on 28th October.

I will re-assess the Minister's briefing in the morning as may require update.

[redacted s38] is briefing the Transport Minister at tomorrow's SRH / SRT briefing and will escalate within ScotRail comms team. I will also inform NR/TS Comms teams of this additional information for the Comms Strategy.

Regards

[redacted s38]

From: [redacted s38] <@scotrail.co.uk>
Sent: 11 October 2022 16:38
To: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: Fife plan

Fife Christmas Blockade

Network Rail are undertaking a series of intrusive engineering items as part of general infrastructure maintenance but also in preparation for the decarbonisation programme for Scotland's Railway. As we do not operate in this area on the 25/26 December and 1 January and have the benefit of the shutdown on the 24th, this means we will be impacted only from 27th December to 31st December even though the position spans 8 days.

The number of people travelling within Scotland is generally at its lowest during Christmas week – this applies to all modes and not just rail, e.g. M8 and M90 daytime vehicle counts were 25-30% lower during this period in 2019 and 2021 than average. Off peak passenger rail journeys between Fife and Edinburgh in 2019 were 65% less in Christmas week than average. Customer behaviours for leisure travel haven't changed materially as a result of the pandemic. Off peak / leisure travel between Fife and Edinburgh during the 2022 festivals was just less than 10% less than the same period in 2019. We can therefore assume leisure travel this Christmas will be similar to that of 2019. Delivering the engineering works at Christmas impacts far fewer customers than at other times of the year.

The engineering is predominately south of Dalmeny but does stop direct access to Edinburgh via Edinburgh Gateway. To ensure we operate a reliable and robust service, taking advantage of resources and diversionary track capacity to the best level, we will operate as on those days:

- All Edinburgh – Fife – Dundee/Perth services are cancelled to provide required track and traincrew capacity for the revised plan and replaced with following:
 - Hourly Edinburgh – Dundee via Kirkcaldy
 - Reversing at Linlithgow and diverted via Winchburgh Jn – Dalmeny Jn line
- Hourly Dalmeny – Perth via Dunfermline
 - Reversing at Dalmeny Loop or mainline
- Edinburgh – Aberdeen services are diverted via Stirling
- Glasgow – Dundee services cancelled to provide resource for amended plan

Traditionally a plan of this magnitude, even at the time of year where less non-discretionary customers are travelling, would require a significant rail replacement operation. Having undertaken more novel approaches in recent years, successfully, on Aberdeen to Inverness and the recent Argyle Line closure we propose to work with commercial bus operators to provide service as such:

- The majority of customers will be encouraged to travel by service buses operated by Stagecoach East. The highest footfall stations in Fife (Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Inverkeithing) are well served and the stations on the west side of the Fife Circle have good access to Halbeath and Ferrytoll park and ride sites. The bus services are more frequent, have more seats and have faster journey times than the rail service we are able to provide. Stagecoach have confirmed capacity is available and ticket acceptance will not be in place.
- Customers from stations such as Kinghorn, Aberdour and Burntisland which are not well served by service bus and are remote from Ferrytoll and Halbeath park and rides will be directed to the rail service we provide.
- Customers who have season tickets and are still commuting during this period and customers who are mobility impaired will be directed to rail.
- Customers at Edinburgh Gateway and South Gyle will be directed to use Lothian Bus or Tram as these are more frequent. Ticket acceptance will not be in place.
- A rail replacement bus shuttle will run between Dalmeny and Gateway, South Gyle, Haymarket and Waverley to provide connectivity for those travelling to Edinburgh Business Park and customers using the Perth to Dalmeny rail service.
- A limited number of standby rail replacement buses will be provided at Inverkeithing and Dalmeny for contingency

Aside from the cost benefits this delivers for Scotland's Railway it also aligns with Edinburgh City Council preference for minimising additional traffic into Edinburgh City Centre at peak periods. Detailed arrangements will now be firmed up with Stagecoach East, Lothian bus and Edinburgh Trams, the Edinburgh and Fife stations teams briefed and stakeholder engagement, in conjunction with the NR project team will commence.

[redacted s38]
Head of Business Development
ScotRail

Atrium Court, 50 Waterloo St
Glasgow
G2 6HQ


Tel: [redacted s38]
Mobile:[redacted s38]
Email: [redacted s38] @scotrail.co.uk
Web: www.ScotRail.co.uk



Leaders
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Achieved
Valid Until
March 2024



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From: [redacted s38] @scotrailholdings.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:30 PM
To: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: TS/SRH Catch up 31/08

[redacted s38]

Just received this from SRT this morning. Happy to discuss further.

NR publication dates for Festive period are:

- Saturday 24th to Friday 30th December will be available from 28th October
- Saturday 31st December to Friday 6th January from 4th November

For your info, and maximising graph and driving resource, we will be delivering for said works:

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- Hourly Dalmeny – Perth via Dunfermline
 - Reversing at Dalmeny Loop or mainline
- Edinburgh – Aberdeen services are diverted via Stirling
- Glasgow Queen St – Dundee services cancelled to provide resource for amended plan

Regards

[redacted s38]

Rail Business Director

Email: [\[redacted s38\]@scotrailholdings.co.uk](mailto:[redacted s38]@scotrailholdings.co.uk)

Mob: [redacted s38]



Scottish Rail Holdings

Buchanan House

58 Port Dundas Road

Glasgow

G4 0HF

I work flexibly, so whilst sometimes it suits me to email outside normal working hours, I do not expect a response outside your own.

From: [redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 15 September 2022 10:38

To: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@scotrailholdings.co.uk>

Cc: [redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot

Subject: RE: TS/SRH Catch up 31/08

Morning [redacted s38]

Apologies, know you'll be busy with board-related matters today, but would be grateful for any further update on this if possible.

[redacted s38] had chased up again today, noting the 1st October comms and announcement deadline is getting close.

Thanks,

[redacted s38]

From: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 12 September 2022 15:51
To: [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>
Subject: RE: TS/SRH Catch up 31/08

Thanks [redacted s38] – much appreciated.

[redacted s38] email address is [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Cheers

[redacted s38]

Transport Scotland | Rail Directorate

Buchanan House | Floor 7

Glasgow | G4 0HF

Phone: +[redacted s38]

[redacted s38]



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency

Còmh dhail Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmh dhail

From: [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>
Sent: 12 September 2022 15:19
To: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: TS/SRH Catch up 31/08

HI [redacted s38],

I have raised this with SRT and when I get a response back I will get back to you and to [redacted s38] (do you have her email?)

Regards

[redacted s38]

Rail Business Director

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From: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 08 September 2022 12:22

To: [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>

Subject: RE: TS/SRH Catch up 31/08

Good afternoon [redacted s38] – hope you are well,

I was just looking to follow up on the below action re Fife festive blockade on behalf of my colleague [redacted s38], have you had a chance to raise with SRT?

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Phone: +[redacted s38]

[redacted s38]



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Còmhhdhail Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmhhdhail

From: [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>

Sent: 01 September 2022 09:42

To: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] <@railholdings.scot>; [redacted s38] <@railholdings.scot>; [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] <@railholdings.scot>; [redacted s38] <@railholdings.scot>

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Hi all,

Please see notes from yesterday's meeting below;

- Fife festive blockade – [redacted s38] to speak to SRT re. timescales
- Capacity document 2022 - Received from SRT, TS to feed in comments
- Student offer – Comms to be released on Thurs/Fri this week with staff briefing yesterday. [redacted s38] to speak to Bill's office
- TS to advise on updated processes
- Gender balance drivers – [redacted s38] sourcing info from SRT on previous years to compare

Please advise of any agenda items before next meeting on 7/9.

Kind Regards,

[redacted s38]

Administrator

Email: [redacted s38] @scotrailholdings.co.uk

Mob: [redacted s38]



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Rail Business Director

Email: [redacted s38] @scotrailholdings.co.uk

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Cheers

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Phone: +[redacted s38]

[redacted s38]



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[redacted s38] **Rail Business Director**

Email: [redacted s38]

Mob: [redacted s38]



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[redacted s38]



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[redacted s38] **Administrator**

Email: [redacted s38]

Mob: [redacted s38]



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Communications Plan – Festive work 2022

Purpose

To set out details of the communications activities to support the programme of upgrade and enhancement work being delivered as part of the Fife Electrification project during the festive period.

Background

As part of the Scottish Government's ambition to decarbonise Scotland's passenger railway services by 2035, plans are in place to electrify the lines to and through Fife. In advance of this, a number of structures on the line need to be 'route cleared' in advance of running overhead electrification wires. At two locations between Edinburgh Gateway station and Dalmeny, this will entail lowering the track to deliver the necessary height clearance below the bridges to safely run Overhead line electrification (OLE).

The structures are located at :

- ECN2 6m 0947yds, (090/020) – Turnhouse Road, Edinburgh Airport, Edinburgh, EH12 0AE
- ECN2 6m 1437yds, (090/021) – Lennymuir (Stenhouse), Cammo, Edinburgh, EH12 0AP

Track lowers unavoidably require possession of the railway for a prolonged period. Where there is a requirement to interrupt services over an extended duration, projects will look to take advantage of the festive period where there are already days when trains do not operate.

Objective

While we will seek to highlight the work as part of a longer-term programme, the main objective of our communications activity detailed in this plan will be to:

- inform customers in advance about the planned disruption to services,
- share details of amended or alternative train plans
- highlight bus replacement service will be in operation
- provide information on the need to undertake this work,
- promote the benefits and the reasons for work being delivered at this time of year,
- inform lineside neighbours and local communities who may be impacted by the work.

The emphasis of our message will be that we are delivering this work safely and efficiently and to show our ongoing commitment to improving Scotland's Railway and delivering on the ambition to decarbonise passenger services.

Key Stakeholders

- Transport Scotland
- ScotRail
- LNER
- Caledonian Sleeper
- CrossCountry Trains
- Lineside neighbours living within 500m of the work
- Passenger representative groups
- Passengers
- Freight operating companies
- Local Authorities (including City of Edinburgh Council, Fife Council)
- Local elected members
- RTPs

Scope of work

Over a period of 8 days from 22.00 Saturday 24th December until the 05.30 on Monday 2nd January, Network Rail will work continuously around the clock to undertake a range of work as part of the Fife electrification project. This will include two track lowers, a bridge demolition, track renewal and vegetation management.

This work cannot be undertaken while the railway is open and given the length of time required to complete specific elements, in particular the track lowers, the activity has been scheduled for the festive period in order to minimise the disruption to the travelling public.

Sunday 25 December

No Christmas Day service.

Monday 26 December

No Boxing Day service

Monday 26 (Tuesday 27 ?) – Saturday 31 December

Buses replace trains on all services to Fife

Sunday 1 January 2023

No New Year's Day Service

ScotRail

Provisional information indicates the service pattern as outlined below

NR publication dates for Festive period are:

- Saturday 24th to Friday 30th December will be available from 28th October
- Saturday 31st December to Friday 6th January from 4th November

(The information on these publication dates will offer a higher degree of certainty around the alternative train running options indicated below)

- All Edinburgh – Fife – Dundee/Perth services are cancelled and replaced with following:
 - Hourly Edinburgh – Dundee via Kirkcaldy
 - Reversing at Linlithgow and diverted via Winchburgh Jn – Dalmeny Jn line
- Hourly Dalmeny – Perth via Dunfermline
 - Reversing at Dalmeny Loop or mainline
- Edinburgh – Aberdeen services are diverted via Stirling
- Glasgow Queen St – Dundee services cancelled to provide resource for amended plan

Cross Border Services

LNER services will start/terminate at Edinburgh (Date to Date) and additional stabling overnight at Edinburgh is required. ??

Caledonian Sleeper services diverted via ??

Cross Country will not serve stations north of Edinburgh for the duration of the blockade.

Key messages

- Between Saturday 24 December 2022 and Monday 2 January 2023, engineers will carry out a programme of work between South Gyle and Dalmeny.
- The work represents a significant investment in the network which will help deliver the electrification of the lines into Fife and will support the wider decarbonisation of Scotland's Railway.
- We recommend you 'check before you travel' during this time.
- We would like to thank our passengers for their understanding and support whilst we carry out this work.
- The work being carried out over the Christmas and New Year period will minimise the overall impact from reduced/altered services as fewer people are travelling.
- We would like to thank lineside neighbours for their patience and support whilst we carry out this important investment in Scotland's Railway.

Communications channels

For the delivery of the communications, we will work our train operator colleagues to build a consistent source of information and messaging to inform the full range of stakeholders. The blockade will be announced to coincide with when the respective dates will be come available for passenger booking however the majority of communications and advertising activity will fall into December.

Network Rail

Letters	Lineside notification letters to those living within 500m of work.
Website	Scotland's Railway website will feature details of the Festive work and why it is necessary to undertake it as this time of year. This will also include FAQs and contact details for our 24/7 community relations helpline. The website will be the Fife electrification project pages
Stakeholder briefing	Proactive engagement with ' key stakeholders ', including elected representatives in the respective Council areas impacted by the work, as well as TOCs and FOCs and cross Border services.
Social media	Social media activity from Network Rail will be supported by video content. As well as the core project work, it will also profile the additional track works which will be delivered by Rail System Alliance during the blockade. In advance of the work starting, this will focus on why it is necessary, and the benefits electrification will bring to Scotland's Railway.

Through the development and delivery of the communications collateral and the preparatory activity for the work itself, we will work with the project team to develop hooks for social content to hang the disruption announcements and issue reminders.

Media	<p>W/c 3 October - an initial press release will be issued, and stakeholder update sent to elected representatives on high-level messaging.</p> <p>W/c 21 November - press release will focus more specifically on the work and the disruption for lineside neighbours</p> <p>W/c 5 December – Press release will focus on the delivery of the advertising campaigns</p> <p>W/c 2 January - There will be a release to coincide with the successful completion of the work would be issued in early January 2023.</p> <p>The information will also be featured in the general festive work announcements as well as the national Check Before You Travel campaigns</p>
Advertising	To raise awareness of the eight-day blockade and service implications for passengers, a regional Advertising campaign will be developed and will run in the weeks before work starting to encourage customers to check before they travel.
TOCs engagement	We will engage with the respective TOC comms teams, whose services are impacted by the work, to shape/develop the appropriate information and for them to utilise their customer channels to amplify the Check Before You Travel message and planned communications.
Station Posters	Key stations on affected routes will feature information posters to advise on where several services will start/end their journey during the eight-day blockade.
On-train Audios	To further highlight work to passengers/changes to services, regular on train and station announcements will take place along the line of the route impacted by line closure.
Station screens	Affected services will also be displayed in stations before and during the work – including on the large information screens at Waveley.

Contingency comms

In the event that work runs over, we will have contingency communications in place to allow us to be proactive in responding to this.

Social media	Utilising both Network Rail and ScotRail platforms, social media messaging will be prepared in advance and can then be rolled out if necessary, to update passengers and wider public on any slight overrun.
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Stakeholder briefing A briefing note would also be prepared in advance and issued to stakeholders if required, including elected representatives, TOCs, FOCs and accessibility groups, should we need to make them aware of any overrun and the reasons for this.

Media Media lines would be drafted and ready, allowing us to be proactive rather than reactive in light of any media enquiries if work does not complete by the scheduled finish date.

Communications Pack – week commencing 3 October (To be agreed)

Network Rail media release

Stakeholder briefing

Final advertising schedule (to be agreed and inserted)

Advertising Collateral (To be developed and inserted)

From: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 5:15 PM
To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>
Cc: DL for Rail Management Team <[redacted s38] @gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Hi [redacted s38],

As previously email, Network Rail ([redacted s38]) has responded which I have copied in red italics below. In this instance I'm supportive of their position but if the Minister wishes I will ask NR to look at an alternative proposal but that will take a few weeks, have a significant cost attached it, unlikely to be agreed with the other train operators and import risk to our current decarbonisation programme.

Regards,

[redacted s38]

"Hi [redacted s38]

As you know, Network Rail does not impose the possession strategy for projects like this, we agree it in collaboration with our colleagues at ScotRail Trains and other affected operators, including freight where it operates. We also agree the strategy for the biggest projects, including this one, with Transport Scotland.

With [redacted s38] help I have tried to set out the rationale for this blockade strategy as below split into passenger and infrastructure reasons:

Passenger

- Undertaking this work over the festive period means utilising 3 days where no services will be running on the affected line (Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day) It does still*

allow for Boxing Day service to be run on the E&G line, should this be planned by ScotRail Trains.

- Blockades, planned with sufficient notice, are less disruptive than alternative possession strategies such as repeated weekend closures or extended rules of the route, shutting down services early for months. Train operators can also resource and deliver a more effective alternate transport plan for blockades compared to shorter closures.*
- Pre-pandemic, average daily passenger numbers in Fife were 10-20% less in Christmas week compared to the norm and whilst this may be less significant with current numbers it will still impact less than implementing out with the festive period.*

Infrastructure

- Using the 8 day blockade at Christmas / New Year 22/23 work de-conflicts the already planned disruptive access in 2023 north of the Forth Bridge. Fife passengers in 2023 will still have the options for trains to Edinburgh via the alternative side of the Fife Circle as a result of the completed Haymarket to Dalmeny blockade work.*
- Additional cost efficiencies are being delivered through significant co-ordination of track lowers for the electrification project with track renewals and structural alterations in the same area. If the works were to be delivered individually the overall unit cost would increase.*
- The proposed track lowers require full depth excavation (>600mm). Working on both lines at same time reduces the need for significant temporary works to retain the ballast on the adjacent line if they were to be completed in alternate weekend disruptive possessions. The works as proposed can only be completed in a blockade.*
- Local Authority liaison has coordinated the re-deck of structures at South Gyle and Broomhouse to minimise disruption to the surrounding road network. Pushing back the proposed works at South Gyle will impact on possessions already booked in Autumn 2023 for 3 structures being demolished and rebuilt over a 4 week window in Autumn.*
- The Aberdeen to Central Belt projects will introduce significant additional disruptive access requests from 2024 onwards.*

There has been an extensive process to get to this point which looks at minimising the disruption to passengers as the primary consideration. Making a change to the blockade approach at this stage would inevitably result in more, rather than less, disruption to passengers and significant cost escalation – rail logistics and key resource deployment are planned several months in advance. There would also be the need to agree a new strategy with all affected operators, all of whom have expressed their preference for the current proposal.

With all that being said, if the minister would like us to set out an alternative option then I shall talk to the project team about how we might do that. It is likely to take a few weeks to review as we will need to consider all logistical arrangements, staff availability and operator plans”.

[redacted s38]

Head of Operations & Technical

Rail Directorate

T: [redacted s38]

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency

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From: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport

Sent: 24 October 2022 15:57

To: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot> [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Cc: DL for Rail Management Team <@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Hi [redacted s38]

Thanks for the update – just echoing [redacted s38] comments, the Minister has been clear in her request for alternative options to be put forward so it would be helpful to have details on why this is the case.

Many thanks

[redacted s38]

[redacted s38] | Deputy Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport – Jenny Gilruth

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

Email: MinisterFT@gov.scot

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From: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 October 2022 15:34

To: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Cc: DL for Rail Management Team <[redacted s38]@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Thanks [redacted s38], Network Rail will need to explain that then to the Minister I think

Kate Higgins

Special Advisor to the First Minister

Local Government and Transport

[redacted s38]

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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From: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 24 October 2022 15:26

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted

s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Cc: DL for Rail Management Team <[redacted s38] @gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; <[redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Afternoon [redacted s38],

I've only received a response from ScotRail and still waiting on Network Rail. It doesn't look good as and it's likely there will be no change of proposal from ScotRail or Network Rail.

[redacted s38]

[redacted s38] Head of Operations & Technical
Rail Directorate

[redacted s38]

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



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From: [redacted s38] <@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport

Sent: 24 October 2022 15:19

To: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Cc: DL for Rail Management Team <[redacted s38] @gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland

<media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate)
<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38]
<@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Hi [redacted s38] (adding Rail Passenger Services colleagues)

Ms Gilruth is meeting with ScotRail tomorrow and has sought confirmation that an alternative approach is being considered and that the Minister will not be presented with the same proposal?

Many thanks

[redacted s38]

[redacted s38] | Deputy Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport – Jenny Gilruth

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

Email: MinisterFT@gov.scot

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From: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 21 October 2022 11:00

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: DL for Rail Management Team <@gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland

<media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate)

<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@railholdings.scot>

Subject: FW: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Morning [redacted s38],

In response to the Minister's request, I have now requested Network Rail to review the proposed engineering access arrangements with a view to planning these over three weekends. Advice from ScotRail Trains and Network Rail indicate the proposed plan is an optimal solution in respect of disruption for rail users as weekends are quite busy and there are fewer commuters around at the proposed blockade.

We will update the minister when Network Rail has reverted to us.

[redacted s38] Head of Operations & Technical
Rail Directorate

[redacted s38]

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



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From: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 21 October 2022 10:14
To: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

From: [redacted s38] @gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport
Sent: 20 October 2022 17:46

To: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; DL for Rail Management Team <@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Hi [redacted s38]

Ms Gilruth does not feel a further meeting with SRH would be of benefit given this work is being undertaken by Network Rail.

The Minister would be grateful for options for how this work could be reduced in timescale, for example, 3 days shorter with that work spread across Sundays in January.

Additionally, on the below highlighted grateful if you can confirm what is meant by the 'rail industry'? It is the Minister who will have to defend this and she does not feel that the current proposition is the optimal solution. Please can officials therefore ask Network Rail for alternative options to truncate and/or spread this work out.

Many thanks

[redacted s38]

| Deputy Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport – Jenny Gilruth

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

Email: MinisterFT@gov.scot

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From: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 20 October 2022 11:29

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>; @transport.gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; DL for Rail Management Team <@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

[redacted s38]

The Edinburgh Glasgow via Falkirk High route was closed on 2 occasions as part of the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP) electrification :

- 44 day closure of Winchburgh Tunnel 13 June -27 July 2015
- 140 Day closure of Queen Street Tunnel and High Level Station 20 March – 8 August 2016

In both cases a significant disruption management plan was deployed. Some limited intermediate route journeys on the line were possible however no end to end services on the Edinburgh Glasgow via Falkirk High Route with passengers diverted to alternate train routes/ stations . Highland, Aberdeen, Dundee and Stirling line services to Glasgow faced significant disruption with diversion to Queen Street low level and Glasgow Central as well as some services terminating early at Springburn.

I understand there was an earlier proposal for the works to be carried out over an extended period starting in January, however this was rejected by the Rail Industry on the basis that the scope of works meant delivery by limited possession based strategy would be extremely challenging and significantly more disruptive for passengers.

It's worth reiterating that as services would not normally operate in this area on the 25/26 December and 1 January and have the benefit of the shutdown on the 24th, services will only actually face additional disruption from 27th December to 31st December even though the possession spans 8 days.

[redacted s38] who leads on the Fife Decarbonisation project for TS Rail Projects is on leave this week; if it would be helpful [redacted s38] could meet with Minister next week to provide more detailed advice although I'd suggest any meeting should include ScotRail Holdings colleagues who lead on the timetable and operations side and I understand briefed Minister last week on the proposal.

Regards

[redacted s38]

Senior Sponsor

Rail Projects and Technical Services

Transport Scotland

T: [redacted s38]

transport.gov.scot

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



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From: [redacted s38] <@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport

Sent: 20 October 2022 09:23

To: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; DL for Rail Management Team <@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Thanks [redacted s38].

Colleagues – grateful for advice on the below and the point round 3 additional days as soon as possible please.

Many thanks

[redacted s38]

[redacted s38] | Deputy Private Secretary to the Minister for Transport – Jenny Gilruth

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

Email: MinisterFT@gov.scot

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From: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 19 October 2022 20:42

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Hi [redacted s38]

I'll certainly instruct Network Rail that we wish to pause the communications for further discussion on this matter.

In terms of the closure itself and discussion around alternative approach to the works I would need to revert to officials who can advise further on these engineering works, the rationale for the approach taken and also the extent to which any changes to the programme could be made

Kind regards

[redacted s38]

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: <[redacted s38] on behalf of Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Sent: 19 Oct 2022 20:21

To: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: "[redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; "[redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>;

[redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland

<media@transport.gov.scot>; "[redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38]

<@transport.gov.scot>; "Higgins K (Kate)" <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; "Reeve W (Bill)"

<Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Hi [redacted s38]

The Minister would like this to be **paused** until we have feedback from Cab Sec on his views. In the meantime is there any possibility these works could be spread out e.g. over a few Sundays? Ms Gilruth discussed this very briefly with ScotRail last week, but it is going to really affect Fife communities over Christmas – and anyone travelling between Edinburgh and Aberdeen - and the Minister is still not clear that there couldn't be an alternative approach adopted by Network Rail. Did the mean Edin / Gla line ever close for 8 days when it was being electrified?

The Minister is not content to front up comms on this either, given this is the approach Network Rail want to take. Ms Gilruth understands why they are doing it but it is not going to land well, particularly given the impacts of the current timetable on Fife which we have previously discussed. The Minister does not think rushing to get this out is the right approach and am asking for a 24 hour pause to allow Ms Gilruth to get Cab Sec and SPADS views.

Many thanks

[redacted s38]

Private Secretary | Office of the Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights – Patrick Harvie

The Scottish Government, St Andrews House (2N.08), Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel. [redacted s38] MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot

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From: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 19 October 2022 19:10

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Hi [redacted s38]

Thank you and apologies for the confusion.

I can confirm that 'blockade' will not be used externally for passenger comms as this is railway terminology. The full closure period is for eight days, three of which are bank holidays and the rest are additional. This is detailed in the attached briefing which was previously submitted by officials.

I've updated the first two paragraphs of the release and the notes to try to reflect the Minister's comments and to make this clearer for passengers.

Kind regards

[redacted s38]

From: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Transport

Sent: 19 October 2022 18:45

To: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <[redacted s38]@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>;

<@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate)
<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Hi

The Minister has suggested this not be referred to as the 'Fife blockade'.

Can officials please confirm the **three additional days** this line closure covers as it is not clear from press release. Eight days of closure – which would be the usual closure dates and which dates are additional? This seems to be longer than the Ms Gilruth believed as it was only 5 days originally and didn't come into the NY period?

Many thanks

[redacted s38]

Private Secretary | Office of the Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights – Patrick Harvie

The Scottish Government, St Andrews House (2N.08), Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Tel. [redacted s38]

MinisterZCBATTR@gov.scot

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From: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 18 October 2022 17:17

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: FTo clear: Network rail press release: Fife blockade announcement

Evening PO

[redacted s30(b)(ii)]

Grateful if the Minister could consider the lines and suggested handling for approval please.

Kind regards
[redacted s38]

From: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>
Sent: 18 October 2022 15:12
To: [redacted s38] <@transport.[redacted s38] gov.scot>; [redacted s38]
Subject: FW: Fife blockade announcement
Importance: High

[redacted s38]

To see attached, planning to send this to the Minister asap and to arrange a time for her to be available for interviews if we get any bids

Will need to send lines to take along with the release, can you send anything to me along with any comments on the release please? Hoping to send it to SpAds/ Minister by lunchtime tomorrow.

Thanks

[redacted s38]

From: [redacted s38] @networkrail.co.uk>
Sent: 18 October 2022 15:09
To: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted s38] <@networkrail.co.uk>
Subject: Fife blockade announcement
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted s38]

Hope you are well.

Please see latest draft of the Fife blockade announcement. I have tweaked as discussed to caveat the service impact being on only 4 of the 8 day closure.

Based on information from [redacted s38], I have also scaled back the level of detail I the background to focus on key headline information. This is [redacted s38] preference for now and it will be followed up with other comms and online information which will relay travel info by station.

If you send back your thoughts, I will et it signed -off from our end and share with others ahead of Thursday PM.

Thanks

[redacted s38]



[redacted s38]

Senior Communications Manager

NetworkRail Scotland

Mobile [redacted s38]

Email [redacted s38]

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.....

[redacted s30(b)(i)]

[redacted s30(b)(ii)]

Appendix B – Map of Route

Section 1 – Festive Blockade South Gyle to Dalmeny

From: [redacted s38]

Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 11:31 AM

To: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>

Cc: Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: Briefing request - Fife Blockade - due by 31 October

Dear [redacted s38],

Thank you for your e-mail, to Bill Reeve, and attached is the current Ministerial note on the Fife blockade.

As requested, key bullets are:

- Closure of the railway is for a period of 8 days between South Gyle and Dalmeny. As trains would not normally operate on 25/26th December or 1st January, the extended impact is from 27th to 31st December.
- Delivering the engineering works at Christmas impacts on far fewer customers than at any other time of the year because the number of people travelling is generally at its lowest during Christmas week. In 2019 off peak rail journeys between Fife and Edinburgh in 2019 were 65% less in Christmas week than average.
- Closure proposals were originally reviewed based on extended disruptive working over a 5 week period in January 2023; on closer consideration this proposal was rejected by Scotland's Railway industry in preference for blockade over the festive period, on account of the much higher levels of disruption which would have occurred with the January proposal.
- Work will include lowering the level of track under some bridges, bridge demolitions, track renewals, signalling, power upgrades and vegetation management. Two double track lowers in particular, are particularly technically demanding to be undertaken on a live railway environment and will require an extended period of time on a closed route section.
- During the closure there will be extended passenger journey times and bus replacement services. Services from Edinburgh to Aberdeen will continue to operate and diverted via Stirling, including LNER and Caledonian Sleeper services. There will be reduced passenger services between Edinburgh to Dundee, Fife to Edinburgh and Edinburgh to Perth. A limited service will operate through Fife and ScotRail are currently working with bus operators to determine the best public transport solution for each station in Fife.
- During the closure ScotRail have an agreement with Stagecoach buses (provision of extra buses), Edinburgh trams and Lothian buses. A primary mode of transport will be agreed for each station (train or bus) depending on whether station is on express bus network. Programme – mid November produce proposal and test with Fife stakeholders / refine to feedback received / go live end November. This is similar to how ScotRail managed the Anderston Tunnel Closure, which worked well (link attached: [Anderston Tunnel Closure | ScotRail](#)).

Best Regards

[redacted s38]



[redacted s38]

Project Sponsor | Rail Directorate

T: [redacted s38]

[\[redacted s38\]@transport.gov.scot](#)



From: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Chief Executive Transport Scotland
Sent: 28 October 2022 13:53
To: Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>
Cc: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>
Subject: Briefing request - Fife Blockade - due by 31 October

Hi Bill

Could you provide a few bullet points for Michelle on the above as this may be raised by the Minister at a meeting on Monday.

Grateful for these by 11:30 on Monday 31 October. Apologies for the short notice.

thanks

[redacted s38]

Head of Chief Executive Office | Transport Scotland | T: by Teams

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Fife engineering improvement works

1. Local travel plans – rail, replacement bus, or local bus routes

By comparing rail travel during this summer's Edinburgh International Festivals with 2019, we know Fife leisure travel to Edinburgh is currently around 15 per cent less than 2019 levels. During Christmas week in 2019, Monday, 30 December was the busiest day of travel between Fife and Edinburgh with around 10,500 single journeys. We have used this as a baseline for our alternate transport planning as the next busiest day was 31 December with 7,500 single journeys. The estimated peak daily single trips from each station in Fife are shown in the table below.

Station Name	Peak daily single journeys	Recommended transport mode
--------------	----------------------------	----------------------------

ABERDOUR	350	Rail
CARDENDEN	144	Rail
COWDENBEATH	350	Either rail or bus
CUPAR	454	Rail
DALGETY BAY	660	Either rail or bus
DUNFERMLINE CITY & QM	1,919	Stagecoach bus
GLNRTHES THORNT	247	Rail
INVERKEITHING	2,409	Stagecoach bus
KINGHORN	247	Rail
KIRKCALDY	1,817	Stagecoach bus
LADYBANK	247	Rail
MARKINCH	660	Rail
NORTH QUEENSFY	350	Rail
ROSYTH	660	Either rail or bus
DALMENY	550	Rail replace bus
EDINBURGH GATEWAY	100	Tram
SOUTH GYLE	350	Lothian bus

Two rail services will operate each hour through Fife during the period of the engineering works:

- An hourly service will operate from Dundee via Kirkcaldy to Edinburgh reversing at Linlithgow; and
- An hourly service will operate from Perth via Dunfermline to Dalmeny where a rail replacement bus will transport customers directly to the city centre.

Of the 10,500 daily journeys from Fife, we'd expect 5,500-6,000 on the direct service via Kirkcaldy to Edinburgh and 4,500-5,000 on the service via Dunfermline to Dalmeny. Trains are planned to be formed of six carriages and have around 380 seats. We expect most customers to travel into Edinburgh between 10.00 and 14.00 and return between 15.00 and 19.00. During this period, rail services will provide just over 6,000 seats.

A half hourly rail replacement bus service will operate between Dalmeny and Edinburgh Gateway and Haymarket to provide connectivity to employment at Edinburgh Business Park and Airport.

A half hourly express rail replacement bus service will operate between Dalmeny and the city centre to convey those travelling on the Perth – Dunfermline – Dalmeny service as well as customers who live in North Queensferry. Buses will be fully accessible. Sufficient buses will be provided at peak times to accommodate a full train load of around 400 customers.

Stagecoach East Scotland passenger numbers during Christmas week are 30 per cent lower than average and they have the ability to add more buses to their routes at this time of year. The Stagecoach express bus service will provide more frequent services and a faster journey time than the amended rail services from all parts of Fife.

We have agreed with Stagecoach that ScotRail will encourage passengers from stations close to their express bus routes to use these services for this period. This keeps journeys on public transport rather than private car and avoids adding more rail replacement buses into an already congested Edinburgh city centre. Stagecoach have confirmed they can accommodate all of the passengers from each of the stations where bus is identified as the preferred transport mode. The recommended transport mode for each station is shown in the table above.

Lothian bus have sufficient capacity to transport all customers who would normally travel by rail from South Gyle as do Edinburgh tram for Edinburgh Gateway customers. Lothian cannot accommodate ScotRail customers from Dalmeny. ScotRail will operate a half hourly rail replacement bus service between Dalmeny and Edinburgh to provide a useful service for those making local journeys as well as increasing the journey opportunities to connect into rail services to Fife.

Standby buses will be provided at Inverkeithing until mid-afternoon to respond to any overcrowding on rail services. These will then move to Dalmeny to support the evening rail services.

Customers will be provided with the following general messages to explain their best travel options:

- If you are travelling to Edinburgh, live in West or South Fife and normally drive to the rail station, we strongly advise driving to Ferrytoll or Halbeath Park and Rides. There is a fast and frequent bus express bus service from these facilities and plenty of staff to help you buy tickets and board the right bus.
- During this period when there are fewer rail services and journey times are extended, express bus links to Edinburgh may offer a better alternative than rail from some stations in Fife. Please check our website where we've listed all of the public transport options from stations impacted by the Engineering works to see what works best for you.
- If you need assistance when travelling, for example you have a mobility impairment, then please use the rail service if its more convenient than travelling to the bus park and rides. Our stations and trains will be staffed as normal to provide assistance.
- If you are travelling to Edinburgh Business Park for work, please change at Dalmeny for rail replacement bus to Edinburgh Gateway where you can interchange onto the tram.

- Replacement buses cannot access South Gyle station. If you are travelling from South Gyle to Haymarket or Edinburgh Waverley, you should use Lothian Buses.
- If you are travelling from Dalmeny to Edinburgh, please buy your ticket at the station as usual and use our express rail replacement bus.
- If you have a season ticket, we can refund it without penalty if the extended journeys don't meet your needs in this period.
- If you are travelling to or from Edinburgh from Aberdeen and intermediate stations to Dundee and Perth, please use the inter7city service which will be diverted via Stirling. This will be quicker and have more seats than using the limited service through Fife.
- If you are travelling from north Fife (Leuchars, Cupar, Springfield, Ladybank, and Markinch) to Edinburgh, at some points of the day it may be more convenient to travel to Perth or Dundee and connect with the diverted intercity service operating via Stirling. Please use our journey planners to confirm the best routing at the time of day you wish to travel.

Station travel plans

Following the approach used on Argyle Line closure, the website will show where nearest bus stop is, summarise frequency and hand over to Stagecoach, Edinburgh Tram and Lothian bus websites for timetable and fares details.

Click the link to see the detailed plans provided for the Argyle Line closure, which will be available from the end of November for Fife: [Anderston Tunnel Closure | ScotRail](#)

2. Fife fare offer – 'Fife fiver'

- Flat Fare promotion for customers in Fife following engineering work between Edinburgh-Dalmeny.
- To raise awareness amongst Fife customers that services have now resumed following the closure.
- It will be a temporary £5 flat fare available at all times of the day.
- Peak and Off Peak, all Fife stations affected by the blockade.
- Travel to/from all stations within Fife, Fife to Dundee, or Fife to Edinburgh.
- The offer will not be available between Dundee and Edinburgh.
- It will be valid on ScotRail services only, seven days a week in standard class only.
- It will be available to purchase between 6 and 13 January inclusive, for travel between 6 and 20 January inclusive.
- Stations included are: Aberdour, Burntisland, Cardenden, Cowdenbeath, Cupar, Dalgety Bay, Dalmeny, Dunfermline Queen Margaret, Dunfermline Town, Edinburgh Gateway, Glenrothes with Thornton, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Kirkcaldy, Ladybank, Leuchars, Lochgelly, Markinch, North Queensferry, Rosyth, South Gyle, and Springfield.
- The ticket will be available via barcode (online and ScotRail app), at station, on-train, and telesales.

From: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 11:07 AM

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Ministerial Request for more information regarding the Fife Blockade

Morning [redacted s38],

At the recent meeting with [redacted s38] and ScotRail the Minister asked them to provide more information/data in support the Fife Blockade. I believe more detail around the bus replacement plan was asked for and to explore truncating the blockade. SRH has provided me with the information and is contained within the attached report. I have reviewed this and confirm the data appears accurate with the base reference (used to inform customer choice) is taken from the busiest period for Fife rail travellers pre-covid, which was during Christmas week 2019. In addition to this, Network Rail has reviewed the length of blockade but unfortunately due to the location of worksite and for safety reasons there is no realistic opportunity to reduce, however it should be noted that train services for Fife customers (and beyond) will still be available as per under;

- An hourly train service will operate from Dundee via Kirkcaldy to Edinburgh reversing at Linlithgow; and
- An hourly service will operate from Perth via Dunfermline to Dalmeny where a rail replacement bus will transport customers directly to the city centre

Transport Scotland is content with findings of review the proposed arrangements detailed therein.

Regards,

[redacted s38]

Head of Operations & Technical

Rail Directorate

T: [redacted s38]

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF

Transport Scotland, the national transport agency

Còmhhdail Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmhhdail

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From: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 5:40 PM

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: Chief Executive Transport Scotland <ceo@transport.gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>

Subject: Ministerial Request for more information regarding the Fife Blockade

Good evening [redacted s38],

Please find below the update for the Minister as promised;

1. Alternative Service Provision During Fife Blockade

At the recent meeting with [redacted s38] and ScotRail the Minister asked them to provide more information/data in support the Fife Blockade. I believe more detail around the bus replacement plan was asked for and to explore truncating the blockade. SRH has provided me with the information and is contained within the attached report. I have reviewed this and confirm the data appears accurate with the base reference (used to inform customer choice) is taken from the busiest Christmas period for Fife rail travellers pre-covid, which was during Christmas week 2019. In addition to this, Network Rail has reviewed the length of blockade but unfortunately due to the location of worksite and for safety reasons there is no realistic opportunity

to reduce, however it should be noted that train services for Fife customers (and beyond) will still be available as per under;

- An hourly train service will operate from Dundee via Kirkcaldy to Edinburgh reversing at Linlithgow; and
- An hourly service will operate from Perth via Dunfermline to Dalmeny where a rail replacement bus will transport customers directly to the city centre

2. Relative Disruption to Passengers and Cost Of Alternative Delivery Phasing

As part of their review ScotRail and Network Rail considered an alternative approach to delivering the works. The review concluded that there would be greater costs with more customers disrupted/inconvenienced with a revised access plan. They found that **a revised access plan would require four full weekend closures** along with **around 5/6 weeks of temporary speed restrictions causing disruption to services**. With regards to costs, Network Rail has stated that there would be **at least £1m of extra cost associated with the weekend approach**. ScotRail has advised that **around 9,000 more customers per day would be impacted** when compared with the current proposal. In broad terms two February weekends impacts more Fife customers than doing the works over Christmas week.

Regards,

[redacted s38]

Head of Operations & Technical

Rail Directorate

T: 0141 272 7499

M: 07833 047298

F: 0141 272 7536

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF

Transport Scotland, the national transport agency

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From: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:27 PM

To: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Proposed Closures in Fife over the 2022 Festive Period And Related Matters

Apologies – should have forwarded this yesterday.

[redacted s38]

Head of Operations & Technical

Rail Directorate

T: [redacted s38]

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF

Transport Scotland, the national transport agency

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From: [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 14 November 2022 16:15

To: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; <[redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Subject: Proposed Closures in Fife over the 2022 Festive Period And Related Matters

Hi Guys

FYI

Thanks

[redacted s38]

From: [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>

Sent: 14 November 2022 15:24

To: Reeve W (Bill) <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @networkrail.co.uk

Cc : [redacted s38] @networkrail.co.uk; [redacted s38] @scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] <@transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Proposed Closures in Fife over the 2022 Festive Period And Related Matters

Dear Bill,

Thanks for your email. SRH will consider the points you raise and respond in due course.

At this stage I would point out that your team are consultees on all proposed engineering work, and have recently been provided with the proposed 2024 engineering work. This has been the case for many years.

Regards

[redacted s38] Chief Executive

[redacted s38]

Please also send [calendar invitations](#) to clgcalendar@outlook.com

I work flexibly – so whilst sometimes it suits me to email outside normal working hours, I do not expect a response outside your own.



Scottish Rail Holdings

Buchanan House

58 Port Dundas Road

Glasgow

G4 0HF

From: Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot <Bill.Reeve@transport.gov.scot>

Sent: 14 November 2022 13:44

To: [redacted s38] @networkrail.co.uk; [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>

Cc: [redacted s38] @networkrail.co.uk; [redacted s38] <@scotrailholdings.co.uk>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot

Subject: Proposed Closures in Fife over the 2022 Festive Period And Related Matters

Dear [redacted s38],

2. [out of scope]
3. I note that the significant changes to travel patterns do not appear to be reflected in the approach to engineering closures creating significant disruption for passengers. It is noticeable that Network Rail often plans to close the rail network on holidays when the road network is known to be especially busy. Therefore, I would appreciate if you could provide full details, including planned mitigations, for your current plans for network closures over the next Easter, Summer Holiday and Christmas period for approval. The Minister for Public Health has written to raise a concern in relation to planned engineering works on Sunday 15th of January, which appears to clash with a Scottish League Cup semi-final match at Hampden. While I appreciate that most proposed closures for works will clash with some event or other, clearly some will have greater impact than others. I would be grateful if Network Rail could look again at this closure and request it is moved accordingly.

4. For future closures, it is important that we learn lessons from the now postponed Fife blockade - particularly in relation to putting passenger interests first, minimising the duration and impact of closure and reducing cost by avoiding periods when critical staff and equipment resources are known to be both scarce and expensive. I would welcome your proposals and findings on this to inform how we might do things differently in the future to ensure that policy aims and commitments of Scottish Ministers are reflected in business planning.

5. [out of scope]

Regards,

Bill Reeve

Director of Rail

Transport Scotland

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[redacted s30(b)(i)]

ANNEX A

ScotRail December 2022 Timetable Change Brief – Full Detail

1.1 Line of Route Changes

[out of scope]

1.2 Edinburgh – Glenrothes/Perth/Dundee *Fife*

Fife continues to only operate as a ‘circular’ service on Sundays. Monday to Saturday, no trains will run between Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline. Passengers making these journeys will need to continue to change at Inverkeithing.

1 x path every hour operates between Edinburgh and Glenrothes via Dunfermline, and 1 x path every hour operates between Edinburgh and Cowdenbeath. Some of these then run ECS to Glenrothes as there is not a walking route for drivers at the turnback signal at Cowdenbeath for trains running in multiple formations. We also have a number of these ECS moves which now turnback at Thornton South Junction – this is to assist with the retention of Fife Circle route knowledge

The coastal route via Kirkcaldy is served by services operating between Edinburgh and Dundee/Perth

All services continue to be planned to be worked by class 158 and 170 units, which we will operate in multiple where possible.

In addition to the above, the following trains will now call additionally at South Gyle Monday to Saturday:

- The 17:19 (17:18 Sat) Edinburgh to Cowdenbeath service
- The 18:18 Edinburgh to Cowdenbeath service

In order to accommodate the retimed Aberdeen to London Euston Caledonian Sleeper service (which now runs earlier Monday to Thursday evenings at 20:26 due to the evening

electrification works in Fife), we have had to retime the 21:49 Dundee to Edinburgh service to depart at 21:29 on Monday to Thursday evenings (running earlier throughout). The train will remain as a 21:49 service on Friday evenings.

1.3 Edinburgh – Glenrothes/Perth/Dundee *Fife* (continued...)

In preparation for future electrification of this route, some services are withdrawn, amended or diverted Monday to Thursday and Sunday evenings in order to give Network Rail more access to the line to undertake these improvement works.

The following services are now withdrawn Monday to Thursday and Sunday evenings for the duration of the December 2022 timetable, but will continue to operate on Friday and Saturday evenings to support the late-night economy:

- The 23:13 Perth to Edinburgh service Monday to Thursday
- The 23:25 Glenrothes to Edinburgh service Monday to Thursday
- The 23:36 Edinburgh to Inverkeithing service on Sundays

The following services are amended Monday to Thursday:

- The 22:43 Glenrothes to Edinburgh service terminates at Inverkeithing
- The 23:18 Edinburgh to Perth service starts at Inverkeithing

The following services are diverted:

- The 22:31 Dundee to Edinburgh service runs non-stop between Inverkeithing and Haymarket and diverts via the Winchburgh chord line and Linlithgow Monday to Thursday
- The 22:58 Glenrothes to Edinburgh service runs non-stop between Inverkeithing and Haymarket and diverts via the Winchburgh chord line and Linlithgow on Sundays

As part of this work, the following rail replacement bus services will operate:

- 22:45 Edinburgh to Inverkeithing service Monday to Thursday (calling at North Queensferry only, and connecting into the 23:43 service to Perth at Inverkeithing)
- 23:36 Edinburgh to Inverkeithing service on Sundays (calling at all stations)

The above buses will operate on a trial basis for 8 weeks in order to assess passenger demand for rail replacement services on this route. A review of bus patronage will occur in January to determine if the above buses will continue to operate beyond the 4th of February 2023. Please note that these buses will not appear in public timetables but will appear on National Rail Enquiries/Journey Planning apps.

No other rail replacement services apart from the ones listed above will operate and instances where there is no rail replacement, passengers should use alternative services or make other arrangements for their journey.

Late evening services will be reinstated on this route once improvement works have been completed.

[out of scope]

The HST diagrams are set up to be uni-directional, with the first class accommodation being planned to face towards Edinburgh. Any ECS moves between Edinburgh and Cadder depot/Glasgow Queen Street are turned at Stirling

The December 2022 timetable also sees an additional ECS move (5T93LC – 20:58 Glasgow Queen Street to Haymarket depot) operating via Stirling to turn the HST rake – ensuring that the first class accommodation is planned to be facing towards Edinburgh

4 x HST's are stabled at Cadder every night apart from a Saturday which sees 5 x HSTs there in order to reduce the number of vehicles stabled at Haymarket depot

3 x HSTs will continue to be stabled at Inverness to better suit maintenance requirements for the fleet. No HSTs are planned to be fuelled overnight at Inverness Monday to Friday due to depot capacity constraints

From the December timetable change, we have used 1 x additional 3 car class 385 diagram in traffic to enhance Clydesdale line service provision via Carstairs. We have also altered the 3 car diagrams to now show 3 units on exam at any one time, instead of 2. The 4 car class 385 availability remains unchanged. Additional 385s are shown on exam at Millerhill but, in reality, may be stabled elsewhere depending on unit availability/maintenance needs.

First class provision on the 4 car class 385s are set up to be uni-directional. From December 2022, there will be an additional ECS move (5N49LX 21:06 Glasgow Queen Street to Glasgow Queen Street) which will operate Monday to Saturday evenings. This will operate via Springburn and via Cadder Down Passenger Loop and is designed to turn the set in order to ensure that the first class accommodation is planned to be facing towards Edinburgh.

We will continue to show 1 x Class 156 stabling overnight at Shields depot Monday to Friday in order to provide a TPM opportunity. The 156 unit can be substituted with a 153 or 158 should this be required, and the TPM moves will be crewed between Shields and Corkerhill depots.

1 x 6 car 318/320 diagram continues to swap work in the early evening at Milngavie with a fresh pair of units from Yoker depot in order to provide better CET opportunities for the 318/320 fleet Monday to Saturday. 6 x class 320/4 will continue to be stabled at Yoker depot in 'warm storage'. These sets will be able to be used with advance agreement with the rolling stock leasing company. Some North Electric and Argyle Line services will therefore continue to operate as 3 cars vice 6 in order to facilitate this. We will pay close attention to passenger loadings as a business to ensure that we are still matching capacity with demand as best as we can going forward.

ANNEX B

1.4 Christmas and new year services – December 2022 / January 2023 Full Detail

ScotRail Services

Festive Period full day-to-day ScotRail service levels – From Thursday 22 December 2022 until Tuesday 3 January 2023 inclusive.

Day	Changes to Service
Thu 22 Dec	Normal service.
Fri 23 Dec	Normal service.
Sat 24 Dec Xmas Eve	Normal service until around 20:30 when services will wind down.
Sun 25 Dec Xmas Day	No service.
Mon 26 Dec Boxing Day	Hourly service between Glasgow Queen Street and Edinburgh Waverley on Boxing Day. Service should operate between 08:45 and 18:45. Sunday service level on Greater Glasgow / Strathclyde routes only, starting up around 09:30.
Tue 27 Dec to Fri 30 Dec inclusive	Normal service.
Sat 31 Dec Hogmanay	Normal service until around 20:30 when services will wind down.
Sun 1 Jan New Year's Day	No service.
Mon 2 Jan	Sunday service level across the network.
Tue 3 Jan	Normal service.

Caledonian Sleeper Services

Festive Period full day-to-day Caledonian Sleeper service levels – From Thursday 22 December 2022 until Tuesday 3 January 2023 inclusive.

Evening	Changes to Service
Thu 22 Dec	Normal service.
Fri 23 Dec	Normal service.
Sat 24 Dec Xmas Eve	No departures.
Sun 25 Dec Xmas Day	No departures.
Mon 26 Dec Boxing Day	No departures.
Tue 27 Dec to Fri 30 Dec inclusive	Mostly normal service but some services will not call at Preston / Crewe / Carlisle or Watford Junction due to engineering work diversion on the WCML in England.
Sat 31 Dec Hogmanay	No departures.
Sun 1 Jan New Year's Day	No departures.
Mon 2 Jan	Normal service.
Tue 3 Jan	Normal service.

Cross-border Passenger Services

Festive Period cross-border passenger service levels have not yet been fully finalised and the detail will still need to be confirmed. It would be expected that most services would operate relatively normally, with the exception of Christmas Day and Boxing Day when no service would operate. Services would wind down slightly earlier on Christmas Eve and Hogmanay, with a limited service in operation on New Year's Day. Further information can be provided when it becomes available.

From: [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:19 AM

To: Minister for Transport <MinisterFT@gov.scot>

Cc: Transport Scotland Directors <[redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; Transport Scotland Media <DLECONPTSM@transport.gov.scot>; Press Transport Scotland <media@transport.gov.scot>; Communications Finance & Economy <CommunicationsFinance&Economy@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; DL for Rail Management Team <DLECONPTSRMT@gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>; [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot>

Subject: Submission to Minister - Upcoming December Timetable Change (and Xmas services)

Minister / PO,

Please find attached a submission on the upcoming rail timetable changes in Scotland from next week and the provisional arrangements for services over the Christmas and New Year period.

<https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A41544813/details>

The timetable changes from 11 December are generally very positive, with some services being added back into the ScotRail timetable and some good journey time improvements.

There are also planned changes to some of the final Sunday to Thursday evening services through Fife and through Carstairs to accommodate the respective overnight route enhancement works.

Officials can offer a further detailed discussion session on the timetable changes if the Minister would like?

We are also looking for the Minister's views on the provisional arrangements for services over the Christmas and New Year period as set out in the submission and for any views on future Christmas / New Year service levels.

Cheers,

[redacted s38]



TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

[redacted s38] Rail Timetable Modelling Manager | Transport Scotland Rail

Mob: +[redacted s38] [redacted s38] @transport.gov.scot



Discussion re postponement of railworks between Haymarket and Dalmeny 2022

Thursday 1 June, via MS Teams

Present:

Michelle Quinn, Director of Offshore Wind (MQ)

Andy Bruce, Director of Communications and Ministerial Support [AB]

Helen Webster, Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance [HW]

Filenote:

1. The purpose of the call was agreed in the context of the request from the FM that Cabinet Secretariat provide advice on the alleged breach of the Scottish Ministerial Code in relation to the postponement of rail works between Haymarket and Dalmeny late 2022. HW and AB were speaking to MQ in her capacity as CEO of TS at the time of the decisions taken re postponement of works.
2. HW noted that this work was being taken forward consistent with standard practice; and confirmed that this conversation was designed to support that process alongside discussions with other relevant individuals and a review of the key paperwork pertaining to the decision. The intention was for AB to provide a report to the FM on or before 12 June that would set out a view on the allegations made; it would be for the FM to determine, taking account of this advice, whether he believes there is merit in the allegation and to determine how he wishes to proceed.
3. MQ was invited to offer her reflections and recollection of the decisions in question. MQ referred to her notes of a regular catch up meeting held on 7 December 2022 with Scotrail and the then Minister for Transport[JG], at which the timeline for planned railworks on the Haymarket-Dalmeny line were discussed. MQ was also in attendance. Key points had been raised and were recorded as follows:

[redacted s30(b)(i)]

Discussion re postponement of railworks between Haymarket and Dalmeny 2022

Friday 2 June, via MS Teams

Present:

Bill Reeve, Director of Rail, Transport Scotland [BR]

Andy Bruce, Director of Communications and Ministerial Support [AB]

Helen Webster, Head of Cabinet, Parliament and Governance [HW]

Filenote:

1. The purpose of the call was agreed in the context of the request from the FM that Cabinet Secretariat provide advice on the alleged breach of the Scottish Ministerial Code in relation to the postponement of rail works between Haymarket and Dalmeny late 2022.
2. HW noted that this work was being taken forward consistent with standard practice; and confirmed that this conversation was designed to support that process alongside discussions with other relevant individuals and a review of the key paperwork pertaining to the decision. The intention was for AB to provide a report to the FM on or before 12 June that would set out a view on the allegations made; it would be for the FM to determine, taking account of this advice, whether he believes there is merit in the allegation and to determine how he wishes to proceed.
3. BR was invited to offer his reflections and recollection of the decisions in question. In discussion the following points were made:

[redacted s30(b)(i)]