

Planning and Environment Services

Your Ref:

Strategic Transportation

Our Ref: CDAB

Militia House

12th February 2007

English Street

Dumfries DG1 2HR

Ms Anne Jolly
Inquiry Secretary (Scottish Citylink)
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4AD

Any enquiries please contact

Colin Douglas

Direct Dial 01387 260136

Fax 01387 260383

Dear Ms Jolly

**STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION : EXPRESS COACH SERVICES
SCOTTISH CITYLINK INQUIRY : NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO ACCEPT UNDERTAKINGS**

I am aware of your current consultation on undertakings from following the matter in the technical press.

I have had a long career as a public transport professional, primarily in local authorities, principally with Dumfries and Galloway Council but most recently with the newly formed South West Scotland Regional Transport Partnership.

The Scottish Citylink Joint Venture does not provide services in my area, but the links available from Glasgow to destinations on the Saltire Cross are vital to many in this area, and they also help to stimulate tourism. We are keen to see an expanded express coach services network in Scotland to foster greater connectivity.

I have watched your Inquiry with interest, and am very surprised at the decision you have come to. This appears to me to be contrary to government policy, and will undo the good work the Joint Venture has done in encouraging the use of coach travel. I understand that passenger numbers on the Saltire Cross have increased by 41% year on year, and believe that a large number of users must have switched from car use.

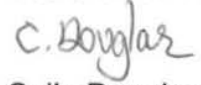
I firmly believe that the primary competitors to Scottish Citylink are not other coach operators, but the private car. In my dealings with Stagecoach, they are always keen to generate additional patronage through modal shift, and I believe they have successfully transported this approach to the Joint Venture.

In summary, I feel the Competition Commission requires to revisit its decision, and look to agree a series of undertakings with Scottish Citylink, covering issues like fares and service levels, and, in doing so, leave the business intact.

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I note that you intend to publish submissions on your website, and would ask that you publish this letter on your website also.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Colin Douglas

Service Manager – Transportation and Road Safety