

09 February 2007

Our ref: TM06SF



Anne Jolly
Inquiry Secretary (Scottish Citylink)
Competition Commission
Victoria House
Southampton Row
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Councillor ANTONY MARTIN

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Electoral Ward 14:
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Dear Ms Jolly

Scottish Citylink Enquiry: Notice of Proposals to Accept Undertakings

I refer to your current consultations on undertakings.

I am a Councillor for the Pitcorthie Ward, Dunfermline in Fife and represent Fife Council on both the South East Scotland Regional Transport Partnership (SESTRAN) and the Forth Estuary Transportation Authority (FETA).

Throughout my time as a Councillor in Fife, I have taken a keen interest in transport and, unlike many local politicians, I am a user of bus and coach services. I therefore feel qualified to give an informed view on your decision to require parts of the Scottish Citylink operations on the Saltire Cross to be divested.

At the outset, I must state my total opposition to your decision, and urge that this is reconsidered and a revised outcome reached, requiring Scottish Citylink to give binding commitments on those issues that customers depend on. In my opinion these would cover maximum fare levels, retaining £1 fare quotas, providing minimum services, first and last journey times, and vehicle quality.

Dunfermline is served by the stopping services on the Saltire Cross network, and has direct links to Edinburgh, Kinross, Milnathort, Perth, Pitlochry, Newtonmore, Kingussie, Aviemore and Inverness. Through connections at Perth, Dunfermline is linked to Dundee and Aberdeen.

I believe that the result of any divestment would be an immediate reduction in passenger numbers. This is at a time where local and central government is seeking to encourage motorists to travel by train and bus. Over time, I see a real concentration of services on the most lucrative journeys, resulting in fewer slow journeys and a reduction in choice for passengers/

passengers in Dunfermline. With two operators, the perception will be of a reduction in service, and the success of the Saltire Cross under Scottish Citylink, has been the simplicity of the timetable for customers.

In my opinion, you have totally failed to recognise that Scottish Citylink's real competition is not from other bus and coach operators, but lies in encouraging motorists to travel by coach. They have successfully achieved modal shift from car use, both through the Park and Ride at Perth and through the overall growth of 41% in passengers year on year.

To sum up, it is my considered opinion that your decision is incorrect and not in the best interests of Fife. I would ask that you reconsider and correct this decision before it is too late.

I would ask that you publish this letter on the website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tony Martin', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Antony Martin