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The Scottish
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HELEN EADIE MSP
DUNFERMLINE EAST CONSTITUENCY

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

08 February 2007

Dear Ms. Jolly,

Scottish Citylink Inquiry: Notice of Proposal to Accept Undertakings

I am aware of your current consultation on undertakings.

I am Member of the Scottish Parliament for West Fife, and have had a long involvement in transport. During the previous term of the Scottish Parliament, I served on the Committee responsible for transport, and during my time as a Councillor with Fife Council, I chaired the Transportation Committee.

Over a long period of time, I have frequently been in contact with the senior management of my local bus company, Stagecoach in Fife, and I must advise that I have found the company, and Stagecoach in general, to be receptive to suggestions and feedback, and to be very customer focussed. It is my belief that the Stagecoach involvement in the Joint Venture has been welcomed by politicians and local authorities alike, and the cross party opposition to your decision apparent on your website is very marked!

The Joint Venture provides links for my constituents to points further north, including Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness, along with links to intermediate points. These services are provided on a regular hourly headway, which is simple for customers to understand, and my feedback is that this simplicity, allied to the consistently high quality service operated, has proved extremely popular. I have received no negative representations since the timetable was introduced in late 2005.

Further, Stagecoach took the initiative to divert cross border services into Ferrytoll Park and Ride in my constituency, providing residents in Fife with their only direct coach services to Newcastle, Sheffield and London. I believe that this would not have been introduced had Stagecoach not been involved in the Joint Venture. I also believe that once your Inquiry is totally concluded, that if the Joint Venture services on the

Dunfermline East Constituency

including Aberdour, Dalgety Bay, Inverkeithing, North Queensferry, Rosyth (East), Kingscat, Steelend, Kelty, Benarty, Cardenden, Kinglassie, Lochore, Lochgelly, Lumphinnans, Cowdenbeath, Hill of Beath, Crossgates

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Saltire Cross are allowed to continue intact, that additional journeys (including the fast services) will serve Ferrytoll Park and Ride, further improving travel opportunities for my constituents.

To require the Joint Venture to dispose of any part of its operations on the Saltire Cross will destroy the increased passenger numbers and customer benefits delivered by the company. This is at odds with the stated public policies of both central and local Government.

In your Final Report, it is apparent that a series of behavioural undertakings were offered by Stagecoach and the Joint Venture. It is my belief that the protection these undertakings would have provided to passengers far exceeds the merits of any disposal you may require. I can only conclude that the Competition Commission has taken a process-driven decision and ignored the best interests of the Scottish population, rather than take the correct decision of behavioural undertakings allied to some form of ongoing monitoring of the Joint Venture would be required.

In conclusion, I must emphasise my view that your decision is incorrect and not in the best interests of my constituents or Scotland, and I urge you to revisit and correct this decision before any lasting damage is done.

Finally, I note that you publish representations on your website, and I would ask that you put this letter on the website accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Helena S. Eadie

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