

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

Our Ref: RM/Transport/Jolly

February 12th 2007

Dear Ms Jolly,

I have recently been informed by the Chair of the North East of Scotland Transport Partnership (Nestrans) of the forced sale of part of Scottish Citylink's operations.

Many of my constituents travel frequently on the express services provided by megabus.com and Scottish Citylink to Edinburgh and Glasgow. My own impression, borne out by the most recent passenger figures, is that these have become more popular in recent years. This is in large part due to the cheaper fares pioneered by megabus.com and Citylink.

I am concerned that any sale will have a detrimental impact on transport links between the north east and the central belt. The north east is geographically isolated and fast, cheap transport links are crucial to reduce the peripherality of the area. I feel that, as an operator of long standing, Citylink understands this. Megabus has also increased the number of express services to Aberdeen. I am not convinced that any new operator would appreciate the regional situation quite so well.

Naturally, I realise that the Competition Commission believe that greater competition will lead to better service and cheaper fares for the consumer. I would hope that whatever the Commission eventually decides, bus services to the north east will be improved. At the very least, they should be maintained at their present levels.

I hope that these views are taken into account when the Commission makes a decision.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP