

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

Dear Ms Jolly,

**Scottish Citylink Inquiry: notice of proposal to accept undertakings**

I write regarding the above as the conservative MSP for Central Scotland representing the interests of constituents in that region.

Transport issues in general and bus services in particular form a significant part of the inquiries I receive from constituents. As a result I am aware that constituents have taken advantage of the Saltire Cross services. Before the introduction of this service these journeys were either not embarked on at all or undertaken in preference to having to travel by car.

The service and fares which appear to be reasonably priced and affordable have therefore helped reduce the sense of isolation for those constituents who do not have access to a car or live in deprivation and or rural areas.

I understand the Scottish Executive has recently published a National Transport Strategy, and part of that is a Buses Action Plan. The objective of these documents is to increase the percentage of travel by in a variety of ways including bus and coach with a view to promoting the increased use of bus and coach services which in turn is fundamental in developing economic prosperity and tourism across Scotland.

In the Final Report one solution to any perceived problem would be to adopt undertakings, limiting what changes Scottish Citylink could make to service levels or fares. I believe in light of the experience of my constituents that this would be a sensible and worthwhile outcome, as it would provide protection to the users of the service whilst safeguarding their ability to benefit from the simple, reliable and frequent timetable available.

My purpose in writing is to request the Competition Commission revisit its decision, and require Scottish Citylink to give undertakings on fares and service levels.

Furthermore from the submissions on your website it is evident that there is significant cross party support for Scottish Citylink remaining intact and I urge you to use the results of this consultation process as justification to reverse your decision.

Finally, I would be grateful if you would add this to the responses published on your website.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Mitchell MSP