



QUEENSFERRY and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Ref: OUT/100207/MG

10 February 2007

Ms Anne Jolly
Inquiry Secretary (Scottish Citylink)
Competition Commission
Victoria House, Southampton Row
LONDON
(Via email)

Chair: Tom Martin
Secretary: Martin Gallagher
Treasurer: Pat Mulraney

70 Stoneyflatts Crescent
South Queensferry
EH30 9XY

Tel: 0131 331 5182
Fax: 0131 202 0688
Email: info@queensferrycommunitycouncil.org
Web: www.queensferrycommunitycouncil.org

Dear Ms Jolly

Scottish Citylink Inquiry: Notice of Proposal to Accept Undertakings

I am writing to register the Queensferry & District Community Council's opposition to the Competition Commission's ruling on the joint venture with Stagecoach and Citylink and the decision to force the disposal of part of the venture.

Divestment will result in two operators providing services, one having the fast network, the other the slow network. Connections at Perth will be jeopardised, and the coordinated timetable is liable to be lost. As each will be looking at their individual patronage patterns, there is an additional risk that services become clustered at popular times or omit quieter points (eg Newtonmore or Kingussie which are served by slow Inverness services). This is also a particular concern in South Queensferry where we are fortunate to have stopping Citylink services at the Forth Road Bridge Tolls even though the passenger uplift is relatively low.

Any forced sale is likely to lead to a migration to more fast services north out of Edinburgh and this would result in fewer services observing the stops at the Forth Road Bridge Tolls. This would reduce journey opportunities from South Queensferry to other destinations currently available on Citylink, necessitating an additional connecting trip either east to Barnton or north to Dunfermline.

I understand the Competition Commission's main argument is that the Joint Venture stifles competition and reduces choice for passengers. However competition was never really an issue in the first place as the Megabus business only started operating in September 2003, and the extensions to Inverness and Aberdeen began in August 2004. The Joint Venture was established in September 2005, so Megabus was not a mature business and the choice between Megabus and Citylink had not existed for long. Indeed, the period since the Joint Venture exceeds the time that competition to Inverness and Aberdeen had applied for.



Queensferry & District Community Council
2 Mid Terrace, South Queensferry, EH30 9LH
QDCC is a member of the Association of Scottish Community Council's (ASCC)
and the Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC)

In conclusion, the Community Council is strongly opposed to the forced break-up of the Joint Venture and believes the Competition Commission should leave the bus operators to get on with the job of providing an integrated, reliable coach service for Scotland, rather than penalising successful Business.

Yours Sincerely,

Martin Gallagher

Martin D. Gallagher

Transport Convenor

Queensferry & District Community Council

70 Stoneyflatts Crescent

South Queensferry

West Lothian

EH30 9XY