



Stewart Stevenson

Member of Parliament for
Banff & Buchan

13 February 2007

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

Dear Ms Jolly

AS
15/2/07

Scottish Citylink Inquiry.

I am aware of your current consultation on undertakings and write to you as the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Banff & Buchan.

This constituency is in the North-east of Scotland, some 150 miles from Glasgow and Edinburgh, so is dependent on attractive and economic transport links. It was particularly pleasing when Stagecoach extended Megabus services to Aberdeen in Autumn 2004, and that the low fares were perpetuated following the Joint Venture and the introduction of the improved services in late 2005.

I understand that Scottish Citylink operate hourly direct links from Aberdeen to Dundee, Perth and Glasgow, and by connections at Perth to Edinburgh and I am given to believe that the services have proved to be extremely popular with residents and visitors to this area. The company has delivered frequent, affordable transport, and should be commended for that. Passenger growth is, I also understand, remarkable and I have received no negative comments about the services provided.

Any divestment will inevitably undo the good work that Scottish Citylink have done, and result in passengers either not travelling, or choosing to travel by car instead. My belief is that the car is the real competitor to the services operated by Scottish Citylink, and that the company has been successful in reducing car use by attracting motorists to use the fast, frequent, affordable, comfortable services offered.

From your Final Report, it is clear that undertakings on fares, service levels and service quality were considered but disregarded. I firmly believe that you were wrong to disregard undertakings, and that the interests of my constituents, and indeed the delivery of Scottish Government policies, would have been more appropriately dealt with by a requirement for Scottish Citylink to make undertakings.

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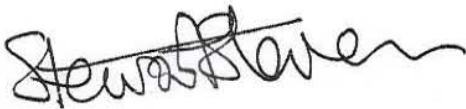
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In summary, I feel it is important that the Scottish Citylink services to and from Aberdeen are retained intact, and I strongly feel that the Competition Commission requires to revisit this decision.

I am aware that you publish submissions on your website, and the cross party political opposition to your decision is very noticeable. I would ask that you publish this letter on your website also.

I should be grateful if you would acknowledge safe receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely



STEWART STEVENSON MSP