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Our Ref. RM/AS/1/65/1
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ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, 07 February 2007

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

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Services South**
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Aberdeen City Council
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Dear Ms Jolly,

Scottish Citylink Inquiry: notice of proposal to accept undertakings

I write with regard to the ongoing inquiry regarding the above.

Aberdeen, as a peripheral City to the central belt and economic centre of Scotland, relies heavily upon public transport services to maintain strong economic and social links.

The inter city long distance coach network provides an essential service to a large student and elderly population in addition to people on a low income.

The introduction of the Megabus service to Aberdeen in 2004 was a significant improvement to the strategic links between Aberdeen and the rest of Scotland.

From a customers perspective, if there was a need for inter city travel the two major factors in planning the journey are cost and time for the client group. Comparing long distance coach services to train fares, the time for journeys are comparable whilst coach services tend to be considerably cheaper.

The joint venture introduced in 2005 brought about a significant improvement in the level of inter city coach travel to and from Aberdeen, where the trend, at the time, of changes in the Scottish Citylink network was a decrease in the level of service to and from Aberdeen.

AGE POSITIVE
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My concern therefore on your decision that there should be a divestment of part of the joint venture business is that it may result in a reduced level of inter city coach services which will have a negative affect for the residents, economy and accessibility of Aberdeen.

It is clear in your report that behavioural undertakings were offered by Scottish Citylink, and that these would have overcome any concerns you had.

I would suggest that your decision is not in the long term interests of the market and would respectfully ask that the Competition Commission review its decision. I believe the correct decision would be to require Scottish Citylink to give undertakings on fares and service levels.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a large, sweeping flourish that loops back to the left.

Andrew Stokes
Planning Officer
Public Transport Unit