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Sent: 12 February 2007 14:49
To: Anne Jolly
Subject: Stagecoach/Comfort Del Gro Joint Venture

Ms. Jolly

Scottish Citylink Joint Venture Forced Sale

I am writing regarding the above.

At the outset may I say that although I have given evidence to the Commission, **this response is a private individual.**

I have found the recent confirmation that the Competition Commission is insistent on destroying the Coach network in Scotland alarming.

As a non driver, not only do I use public transport, but actively encourage others to do so. For instance my wife although having access to a car attends monthly meeting in Edinburgh using public transport.

I am at a loss as to the benefit to myself or my wife by forcing operators to be at each others throats in wasteful competition. For those of us who remember the "Old" Scottish Citylink Network we were glad to say good riddance!! Although the new venture may not be perfect [what business is], what it is though is fast frequent and cheap! – is this not what the customer wants.

Having read the Competition Commission Report I was staggered to read their findings – Only someone with their eyes shut would conclude that the private car or First Groups stranglehold on much of the Bus and Rail network in Scotland is no competition.

If this ill advised and ill convenience divestment takes place, what is we I the Highlands going to be left in terms of investment in buses and services? More second rate First services – I hope not.

It seems such a pity that the Competition Commission isn't exposed to some competition themselves – then maybe they would in the real world that the rest of us live in.

I would ask that the Commission consider what the public of Scotland wants and is entitled to – A well thought out integrated network. I use public transport, how many of Competition Commission involved in reaching these rather strange decisions actually do?

Alisdair Goodall

Inverness

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