

Strategy and Investment

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TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND

Alison Wilson
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date:
November 2010

Dear Ms Wilson,

Consideration of Petition PE1115

Thank you for your letter of 28 October in relation to Petition PE1115, which supports the re-opening of Blackford Railway Station.

Your letter enquires about the transport planning of the 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles and seeks an update on the next stage of work with TACTRAN. You also asked Transport Scotland to take into consideration Cobra's request to participate in future work.

Transport Planning for 2014 Ryder Cup

Transport Scotland is currently working with Events Scotland, Perth and Kinross Council, Stirling Council and other agencies to develop a transport plan for the Ryder Cup in 2014. In response to recent written Parliamentary Questions from Charlie Gordon MSP, the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change, Stewart Stevenson MSP confirmed that we are considering a number of strategies to meet demand, including access via Gleneagles Station and an evaluation of road links serving the station.

A key objective of the plan is to minimise the carbon footprint of the event. Constructing a new station at Blackford and increasing bus operations in the area does not meet that objective. Mr Stevenson has confirmed that the Transport Plan will consider proposed improvements to Gleneagles Station rather than reopening Blackford Station.

Future work with TACTRAN

We will continue to work with TACTRAN in the development of the next High Level Output Specification and future franchise. As I explained in my previous reply, details of our approach, activities and timescales for our future work with TACTRAN and other interested parties (including COBRA) are at an early stage. We will work within the timescales defined by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). Full details are set out in ORR's letter of 14 October 2010, which can be viewed at <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/orr-letter-update.pdf>.

I hope this helps to clarify the present position.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances Duffy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frances Duffy
Director of Strategy and Investment