

Rail Directorate

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PE1115/T

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

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date:

20 January 2011

Dear Ms Wilson,

Consideration of Petition PE1115

Thank you for your letter of 13 January to Carron Pollock in relation to Petition PE1115, which supports the re-opening of Blackford Railway Station.

Your letter enquires about the development of Scottish Ministers next High Level Output Specifications (HLOS) and details about the transport plan for the Ryder Cup in 2014.

High Level Output Specifications (HLOS)

The HLOS forms part of the GB-wide access charges review, which is carried out by the Office of Rail Regulation to define the basis for the activities and projects that Network Rail will progress and sets out what the Scottish Government requires from the rail network. It provides clarity on the key projects and priorities that Ministers require to be progressed to deliver a fit for purpose, value for money public transport system, while providing a robust basis for rail industry planning.

Rail interventions recommended in the Strategic Transport Projects Review published in 2008 will form the basis of the specification for future Control Periods. However, Scottish Ministers will consider other rail interventions that would contribute to the objectives of this Government.

As I explained in my previous reply, the work is at an early stage as we are currently considering the processes required to progress interventions for the next HLOS. However, there will be time allocated over the coming months to consider specific rail projects from stakeholders, including contributions from COBRA that may be included in Control Period 5 (2014-2019).

Transport Planning for 2014 Ryder Cup

Work on the transport plan for the 2014 Ryder Cup is at a very early stage, as such, Transport Scotland, Event Scotland, and Perth and Kinross Council are unable to provide a programme of works or a cost estimation for the development of the plan.

However, I can assure the Petitions Committee that the development of the transport plan will be an iterative process that will draw on experience of similar events and will be fine tuned over the next three years. There will be ongoing consultation with relevant stakeholders as part of the development work. It is anticipated that the Transport Plan will take the form of an access strategy rather than a formal published document.

I hope this helps to clarify the present position.

Frances Duffy
Director of Rail Directorate