

Rail 2014,
Transport Scotland,
Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road,
Glasgow, G40HF

Marianne Baird

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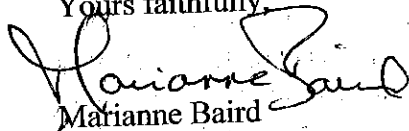
Dear Sirs,

Rail 2014 Consultation Response: Cross-border services

I wish to respond to questions 29 & 30 on the consultation form (the other questions I am not really qualified to answer to as an ordinary rail passenger) as I am totally against the idea of stopping all cross-border trains at Edinburgh. The majority of passengers travelling into Scotland from England are on long-distance journeys and most will not actually be inhabitants of Edinburgh but will be wanting to continue to other parts of Scotland without the delay and upheaval of having to change trains and co-ordinate with other train timetables. If your London train is late for instance, you'd miss the planned connection (if there was one anyway) causing you further delay. There are no porters at Waverley to help passengers, particularly the elderly, with getting their luggage off the train and round to an alternative platform and the majority of local Scotrail trains are not designed for long distance travel and have no suitable luggage spaces or the more comfortable seats the existing cross-border trains provide. I can see no benefits whatever in the creation of an Edinburgh Hub, at any rate for the passengers, who are, after all, the railways' clients and main source of income. The present trend is to encourage people to travel on public transport, particularly rail, to relieve the pressure on the roads, but if you make rail travel more time consuming and difficult, this will drive potential passengers away. If you travel on the Eurostar from London to France and then Belgium, you never have to leave the train when crossing a border so obviously the transport departments of each country manage to co-operate perfectly successfully in specifying their various services – why can't the Department of Transport and the Scottish Ministers do the same?

I therefore wish to strongly recommend the rejection of any suggestion to end cross-border trains at Edinburgh.

Yours faithfully,


Marianne Baird