

C000305

With regard to the public consultation Rail 2014 I am concerned about the prospect of the dramatic and potentially costly effects the implementation of these proposals could have on Scotland's railway infrastructure.

I am in favour of the retention of a single, integrated rail operator for the provision of Scotland's rail passenger services.

I am opposed to any decisions that will:

- ?Break up the current unified operation into separate franchises
- ?Cut services and staff and increase the number of interchanges
- ?Deregulate fares and pass control of fares to private rail operators
- ?Remove the control and management of stations in Scotland from the responsibility of a single operator, or change their ownership from that of Network Rail

The proposals in the Rail 2014 consultation document to break up and deregulate Scotland's passenger railways will be detrimental to the Scottish economy, leaving a fragmented system that is less efficient and more costly to both tax-payers and passengers. The Scottish government must retain accountability and control over the railway in order both to maintain the existing level of service provision and to work to improve rail passenger services in Scotland.

I hope that you would also oppose these potentially disasterous changes and look forward to hearing from you.