

Sirs,

Closure of Duke Street Station

I recently found out via my community council about a “consultation exercise” regarding the closure of Duke Street station.

Perhaps you could explain why this consultation is so secretive. There is no poster on the station itself – which I would have thought would have been the correct place to advertise this fact. The consultation is advertised maybe on Transport Scotland’s web site – but that is an ineffective way of communicating with the public.

No postal address was provided by the source, only an e-mail address. This is contrary to the principal of accessibility, as not everyone has access to the internet.

Your consultation therefore appears to address only those who have internet access and might have reason to visit your web site and come across it by accident. This cannot by any means be considered a public consultation exercise.

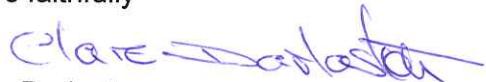
I regularly use this station and do not believe that it should close. For anyone south or west of the station, Alexandra Parade is not an easy alternative, and the loss of Duke Street would make the ½ way distance between the next two stops (Alexandra Parade and Belgrave) too great for most people. Furthermore, Duke Street is one of the few stations that has ramped access.

I had the impression that the general policy was to increase the number of railway stations in order to facilitate access and improve the use of public transport. Therefore removing this station would be a regressive step and contrary to this policy.

Furthermore, closing the station would not be without costs. It is not at the best of times a visually attractive station, with a barely functional layout and being kept at the bare minimum of tidiness. If it were to be closed, it would need to be removed and acceptable land re-instatement provided in its place.

This is a useful station and needs to be retained. I cannot envisage that the minute cost savings in not stopping here could possibly justify its removal.

Yours faithfully



Clare Darlaston

p.s.

Having later visited the local library to check the postal address and the web site, I found the information difficult to access and highly confusing. Each section has to be viewed by going to a different page, involving far too many changes of site and far too much extraneous information.

Your consultation text refers to passengers "being displaced" (does that mean an extra distance they would have to walk?) if having to walk to the nearest alternative station. This pre-supposes that they have started from the closed station and only have to walk up the road to the next station. If, on the contrary, they have just walked half a mile or more to get to the first station, a further mile will make the journey too long.

Please look up the meaning of "displace" in the dictionary.