

David Hood

As a SME MD and an oft-commuter to Glasgow and London from Edinburgh, my comments are simple and few:

1. Where are the high-speed links, to London and the Channel Tunnel / Europe as promised by successive UK governments? **Can we secure some with Scottish Gov backing?**
2. Why, when everyone is being encouraged to move from carbon-hungry cars and planes, that train fares have exploded over the last few years? Especially when compared to flights. **Can we get some really competitive trans-border and Scottish inter-city services, removing the need for costly transport and carbon-heavy travel?** Empty trains travel the length and breadth of Scotland, and down to London. The seats could be filled if rail travel was cheaper.
3. Pricing - related to #2 above; I cannot believe that we are still charging some incremental fares and should take a leaf out of Lothian Buses' book - standard fare regardless of travel. **A train has to go from one terminus to another, like buses; therefore its high time to look at day rates rather than journey distances?** I am sure that this would work; indeed I lecture on such subjects occasionally. But accountants control things and per-this pricing keeps them gainfully employed. Other pricing structures would keep people on trains! (and services more profitable).