



Nairn West Community Council

Chair: Rosemary Young OBE
Inveran Lodge
Seafield Street
Nairn IV12 4HG

11 January 2012

Rail 2014
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow G4 0HF

Dear Sirs

TRAIN SERVICES TO AND FROM INVERNESS

As a Community Council representing residents and businesses of Nairn, we attach great importance to the provision of good and convenient rail services between this region of the Highlands and the rest of the UK.

We were therefore pleased to see reports that – following widespread public reaction and the intervention of the Scottish Government – a decision had been made to continue the Caledonian Sleeper overnight direct service between Inverness and London.

I now write to urge the retention of the existing “Chieftain” direct daytime service operated by East Coast Trains between Inverness and London, on which a public consultation is currently being carried out. A direct service, without the need to change at Edinburgh or elsewhere along the route, is of great value to regular travellers – whether for business or leisure – and to visitors. Not only is this economically significant for Inverness and the Highland region; it is also an efficient and attractive alternative to travelling by air.

In view of the emphasis placed by both the UK and Scottish governments on promoting the use of public transport, sustaining regional development, and encouraging tourism, I am copying this letter to Danny Alexander as MP for this area, to Fergus Ewing MSP who also represents this constituency and holds the Energy, Enterprise and Tourism portfolios, and to Keith Brown MSP as Scottish Transport Minister. I hope that all three will support the continuation of this train service.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Brian Stewart
pp **Rosemary Young OBE**
Chair, NWCC