

PURVIS & COMPANY

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Rail 2014
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
GLASGOW G4 0HR

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Sir

I am responding to your consultation about rail services and specifically to Questions 29 and 30 regarding cross-border services.

I am a regular user of the service from Leuchars to/from London and occasionally to other English destinations.

A major consideration in preferring the train to air or car, is the through service and the timing.

Having to change at Edinburgh would make this unattractive to the extent that I would just not use the railway at all. The whole point is to avoid the need to change at Waverley with luggage, children, delays, waits, discomfort, etc. It would inevitably increase the time for journeys, and the comfort of Scotrail trains is much inferior to the East Coast and Cross Country long distance trains.

We always recommend the train to foreign friends who are travelling from the south to Leuchars (St Andrews) because of the comfort and convenience. This will no longer hold and, if they come at all, they will probably travel by air. Eliminating these through services would have a very negative effect on tourists, especially high-value foreign tourists.

You will be aware that many students from England and abroad come to St Andrews, Dundee and Aberdeen Universities. The through train service is vital for them.

It is inconceivable that you should insist on changing trains in Edinburgh. It will probably be the death knell of train use between the North East of Scotland and England. It will do almost nothing to help ScotRail. If anything you should be considering the electrification of the line from Edinburgh to Aberdeen and encouraging through trains from England to extend beyond Aberdeen to Elgin and Inverness. Improving the attraction of rail is critical to its future usage and usefulness. Making it inconvenient and uncomfortable will only diminish its use and viability.

Yours faithfully



John Purvis