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Transport Scotland

To Whom it may concern,

I am given to understand that there is a review of cross-border rail services and I am very concerned about the possible removal of sleeper services to the Highlands. I have used the Caledonian Sleeper twice this summer and I have been very satisfied with the service.

#### Questions

37 Should we continue to specify sleeper services, or should this be a purely commercial matter for a train operating company?

38 Should the Caledonian Sleeper services be contracted for separately from the main ScotRail franchise? Or should it be an option for within the main ScotRail franchise?

39 We would be interested in your views in the level and type of service that the Caledonian Sleeper Services should provide. Including:

What is the appeal of the Caledonian Sleeper Service, and if there were more early and late trains would the appeal of the sleeper services change?

What is the value of sleeper services to Fort William, Inverness and Aberdeen and are these the correct destinations, for example would Oban provide better connectivity?

What facilities should the sleeper services provide and would you pay more for better facilities?

Transport Scotland should continue to specify sleeper services. Since the removal of the direct flight from Inverness to Heathrow, there has never been a satisfactory route to fly to London. In the light of this, the Caledonian Sleeper is all the more indispensable.

The service was fully booked when I travelled in June and September, and very popular by all accounts. Travel to London is difficult by day for those who live a long way from Inverness as they require time (several hours in many cases) to travel from home to Inverness. For many people, sleep is the best way to spend the time spent travelling and the following day's activities can be approached refreshed and ready.

I visited Australia this summer. With no sleeper, I would choose to fly to Schiphol from Edinburgh and onward to my destination, thereby avoiding Heathrow, Gatwick etc.

The Highlands are very dependent on Tourism and removal of the Caledonian Sleeper would in my opinion have an adverse effect on tourism in this area. Similar arguments can be advanced for Fort William and Aberdeen

The sleeper facilities are perfectly adequate for my needs and I would be prepared to pay more for this service.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen J. Carroll