

Response to Rail 2014 Questionnaire

I am responding to your questionnaire as a regular, and sometimes frequent traveller from Leuchars on both the East Coast Line to London and to various destinations in the North, Midlands and West of England. I have been using these services since the 1950's.

As I am now elderly and am registered with Fife Council as a partially sighted person, I rely heavily on the Railway Network for anything other than very local journeys.

I would find my ability to travel, even with assistance, should all trains from the South terminate in Edinburgh severely curtailed. Both Waverley and Haymarket Stations with their long areas to go through, their steps, bridges and lifts- for which there can be long waits – far from "user friendly."

I know that these views are shared by parents with young children and passengers with other heavy luggage, students and tourists with sports equipment and bicycles. There are also occasions when the time allotted for onward connections is not adequate and passengers are left stranded or with unnecessarily long waits for later trains.

With regard to sleeper services which I do occasionally use, I believe that Oban and Aberdeen would be the best options, not least as they are now the starting point for very nearly all the ferries to islands in the North and to the Hebrides.

I am aware that the continuation of through services from the South will present some problems to those who are planning the future of the Network, but I hope that some way forward may be found to preserve these historic links which are so vital to those of us who live in Scotland and to the many tourists and students whom we welcome here each year.

I would very much oppose any plans which left us with a less useable railway service.