

---

**From:** Eberhard Sauer []  
**Sent:** 10 December 2011 14:12  
**To:** Rail 2014  
**Subject:** C000002 - b

> -----Original Message----->

> From: Eberhard Sauer []>[\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#)

> Sent: 21 November 2011 17:23

> To: Transport Scotland Info

> Subject: Sleeper train consultation

>

> Dear Sir or Madam,

>

> I read with disbelief that Transport Scotland is considering> discontinuing the sleeper train connection to London. The sleeper> train is the only means of transport which enables businesspeople and> academics to attend meetings in the south in the early morning or to> stay beyond 5.30 p.m. in the evening, if they have to work in Scotland> the day before or after. I am using the sleeper train extremely> frequently, normally at least once or twice a month and sometimes> (such as this month) up to six times. Without the sleeper service, I> would be unable to serve similarly effectively on the governing

> councils of two British organisations which tend to meet in London,> the Roman Society and the British Institute of Persian Studies. It> would also be much more

>

> difficult to keep up to date on recent publications by travelling once> per month for two days to Oxford. The sleeper service allows me to

> reach

>

> Oxford at 9.30 a.m., whilst even if getting up extremely early to> catch the earliest train in the morning would not enable me to get to> Oxford before the early afternoon. The sleeper train, at least the> carriages from Edinburgh to London and London to Edinburgh, is always full; on c.> 80% of my journeys I have a share a cabin and sometimes it seems there> is not even a single spare berth on the train. I cannot see why it> should be any less profitable than daytime trains. Even if, the costs

> to

>

> the Scottish economy and academia will be immense, if this service is> cut. Scottish-based businesspeople and academics will be less involved> in UK-wide organisations and they will struggle to compete with their> English counterparts, if they depend on resources in the south, e.g.

> the

>

> UK's top research libraries. It will make Scotland's top universities,> currently amongst the best in the world, less attractive places to work at.

>

> Your transport policies baffle me. Everybody unfortunate enough having> to use an airport is subjected to irrational and degrading treatment,> which the chairman of British Airways has rightly described as utterly> redundant (not to mention the environmental impact of increased air> travel). Now you wish to make it impossible to reach the outside world> at a reasonable speed by rail.

>

> Is it your aim to cut off Scotland from the rest of the world?

>> I hope Scotland's economy and universities have a bright future ahead> of  
>  
> them, which will depend on Scotland being well connected to England> and to countries abroad. I hope for your assurance that these> misguided plans and policies will be abandoned very soon. If not,> please let me know who is responsible so that I can share my views, on> the own goal you plan to score, with Scottish politicians.  
>  
> Yours sincerely,  
>  
> Eberhard Sauer  
>  
> Eberhard W. Sauer  
> Professor of Roman Archaeology  
> Classics> School of History, Classics and Archaeology University of  
Edinburgh> William Robertson Wing Old Medical School Teviot Place  
Edinburgh, EH8> 9AG Scotland, U.K.  
> e-mail:

---

\*\*\*\*\*  
This email has been received from an external party and  
has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.  
\*\*\*\*\*