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Re the current consultation exercise I wish to emphasise the importance of maintaining a Caledonian Sleeper service north of Edinburgh/Glasgow. I use the service from Leuchars for work and would use it more often but have found the current demand for it so high that I have often been unable to book a berth for the required dates. Adding a Leuchars-Edinburgh journey lengthens the trip (especially as you have to build in cancellations which could nullify the connection) and causes added complications with luggage etc. If no 'Highland' services were available I imagine that the availability of berths would become even more problematical.

Re paying more for the service it depends at which end of the scale you refer to – I have also had to fly rather than take the sleeper because when I came to book the cost was so many times more than a flight + transfer costs that I could not justify this to my organisation. Current services are basic but adequate when fares are competitive with flying.

As with many other passengers I also prefer to use train services to flying for environmental reasons. A balance therefore has to be found to meet the growing demand for train services in a way which is cost effective and will encourage use. If we are serious as a country in reducing carbon emissions then expansion of relevant services rather than reduction has to be addressed.