

Rebecca Trengove

I write in response to the public consultation on Rail 2014.

In answer to Q29, yes I very firmly believe that cross-border services should continue to go north of Edinburgh, specified by Scottish Ministers, and should not terminate at Edinburgh. From where I live (near both Leuchars and Cupar) rail is an option for business travel to London, but is only competitive with air travel in terms of time because there is no change at Edinburgh. (In terms of cost there is not much difference). If I had to change at Edinburgh, with the possibility of not making a connection, rail would become less attractive in comparison to air, even though I know that from an environmental point of view it is less damaging.

The same applies to the sleeper. From Aberdeen you can get a decent sleep both ways, from Leuchars you just about can, but from Edinburgh you certainly can't because the journey is too short. The couple of times I have taken the sleeper from Edinburgh it means a late train to Edinburgh, hanging around a cold station very late at night (not attractive for most people, but particularly women), and then coming back a very early arrival in Edinburgh to catch a train further north. If the sleeper only went from Edinburgh it would become a very unattractive option for passengers from most points north.

So in answer to your questions:

37, yes you should continue to specify sleeper services.

38. I don't care who runs the sleeper as long as it continues.

39. The sleeper is a very attractive alternative to air travel. Arriving into London at 7am is ideal timing - this probably determines how late it can leave Scotland. It certainly shouldn't leave any later than it already does. The one additional service I would appreciate is access to showers at Euston; otherwise what it currently offers is fine. If more services were to be added pushing the ticket price up, it would become less attractive. Currently it is competitive with air travel - if prices were to increase it would be harder to justify the additional price, given that air fares these days are so cheap.