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## The Scottish Parliament

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27 November 2008

**Iain Gray**  
MSP for East Lothian

Consultation,  
Rail Performance Team,  
Transport Scotland,  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road,  
Glasgow,  
G4 0HF

Dear Sir,

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute as MSP for East Lothian to the consultation on initiatives related to the ScotRail franchise extension.

Of the Priced Options listed in the consultation document, I strongly support the implementation of additional services between Dunbar and Edinburgh. The town of Dunbar has a rapidly expanding population and while there has been an increase in the number of inter-city trains serving the station in recent years, the service frequency remains inadequate and sporadic.

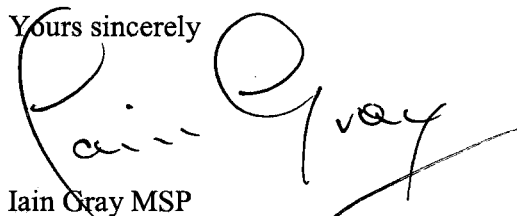
Clearly, the travel needs of rail passengers in and around Dunbar cannot be served by infrequent stops by long distance alone. Dunbar is one of only two train stations in Scotland not currently served by ScotRail and I would like to see that addressed as part of the ScotRail franchise extension.

I understand it would be feasible to run a half-hourly service between Edinburgh and Drem with alternate trains serving North Berwick and Dunbar from Drem onwards. I am very supportive of such a proposal and would encourage Transport Scotland to work with East Lothian Council and local groups such as RAGES to make it a reality.

In addition, to address the issues raised in questions 9, 14, 21 and 25, I believe that disabled access between the two platforms at Prestonpans station should be made a priority. Recent accessibility improvements to the station mean little if wheelchair-bound passengers are not able to return to their vehicle on the opposite side of the track when they have completed their rail journey.

There is widespread community support for both the Dunbar and Prestonpans proposals and I hope that they are projects that Transport Scotland will be able to take forward in conjunction with the franchise holder.

Yours sincerely



Iain Gray MSP

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Representing Aberlady, Athelstaneford, Cockenzie, Dirleton, Drem, Dunbar, East Linton, Elphinstone, Garvald, Gifford, Gullane, Haddington, Humble, Innerwick, Longniddry, Macmerry, Musselburgh (East), North Berwick, Oldhamstocks, Ormiston, Pencaltland, Port Seton, Prestonpans, Saltoun, Spott, Stenton, Tranent, Tynninghame, Wallyford, West Barns, Whitecraig, Whitekirk and the other communities of the East Lothian Scottish Parliamentary constituency