



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01578**

**Name of petitioner**

Martin Keatings

**Petition title**

Forth Circle Rail Link

**Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to release funding for and establish passenger rail platforms at: Crossford; Cairneyhill; Torryburn; Valleyfield; Culross and Kincardine; thereby linking Stirling to the Fife Circle.

**Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

The issue has been discussed previously with MSPs and a main issue of concern was that Scottish Power would not allow usage of the line because it was being used for coal transport. However, this barrier has now been removed with the announced closure of Longannet Power Station. The other main issue of concern remains: funding - as this would be a substantial infrastructure project, it would require national funding from the Scottish Government.

**Petition background information**

Whilst it is regrettable that job losses are occurring as a result of the closure of Longannet Power Station, this does open possibilities with regards to improvement of public transport in Fife. The Forth Circle (AKA Longannet Line) already being in place could, with the establishment of passenger platforms, be transformed into a critical link from Dunfermline to Kincardine servicing the Fife villages with nominal expense. This would allow a direct link between the Fife Circle and the Alloa-Stirling lines and allow quick transport between both.

For the Fife villages, transport is few and far between. Currently getting to Glasgow involves getting a bus to Kincardine or Dunfermline and taking the appropriate lines from there. Getting to Edinburgh means travelling to Dunfermline. For working people the buses often add hours to journeys to and from Glasgow and Edinburgh. This does not take into account that several of the Fife coastal villages are preparing to expand, which will put further pressure on the infrastructure. A critical link between the Fife coastal villages and the major cities by rail would allow commuters to use rail transport - rather than a bus - in turn freeing up necessary space for commuters to Dunfermline.

That being said, however, rail would solve many of the serious congestion issues in the centre of Dunfermline allowing people to travel to and from Dunfermline without having to contend with the many traffic lights and bottle necks along the way.

On the Rosyth - Kincardine road, the number of drivers would also be reduced freeing up a main artery road between the Forth and Kincardine bridges.

Ultimately, there is also carbon emissions to consider, with a reduction in the number of car journeys from the coastal villages, substituted instead for rail - this would mean a drop in CO2 produced by cars.

We also do not need to spell out the benefits of linking the two rail networks to the airports completely by rail and also the opportunity for tourism between Dunfermline and Stirling.

#### Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/ForthCircleRailLine>

#### Related information for petition

#### Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

#### How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

#### Closing date for collecting signatures online

13 / 10 / 2015

#### Comments to stimulate online discussion