

Rail Directorate

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
Direct Line: 0141 272 7561, Fax: 0141 272 7111
Frances.duffy@transportscotland.gsi.gov.uk

PE1115/V



Alison Wilson
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date:
17 February 2011

Dear Ms Wilson,

Consideration of Petition PE1115

Thank you for your letter of 8 February to Carron Pollock in relation to Petition PE1115, which supports the re-opening of Blackford Railway Station.

Your letter enquires about future feasibility studies in conjunction with the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (Tactran) to progress the project under future strategic transport reviews.

Future studies

It may be helpful if I explain that Tactran did examine in more detail the potential for a station at Blackford as part of its Tay Estuary Rail Study (TERS). While the study illustrated a pattern of service improvements that could benefit the network as a whole, it concluded that developing Gleneagles as a transport hub was their preferred option. I have confirmed in previous correspondence that we will continue to work with Tactran in developing proposals for the next High Level Output Specifications (HLOS) and future franchise. However, we have no plans to prepare another strategic transport review.

The Strategic Transport Projects Review published in 2008, provides Ministers with the basis to make informed decisions about future transport spending beyond the current programme and serves as a forecast for transport development in Scotland for the next 20 years. The transport interventions contained within the STPR will inform the basis of the specification for future Spending Periods. However, there will be opportunities for stakeholders, such as COBRA to inform what the next HLOS could include that contributes to the Government's objectives.

Timetable for HLOS

The latest timescale for the development of the HLOS is as follows:

May 2011 – Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) will publish its consultation for Periodic Review 13.
Sep 2011 – Network Rail publishes an initial Strategic Business Plan

Jul 2012 – Scottish Government & Department for Transport publishes HLOS
Jun 2013 – ORR publishes the Draft Determinations for the rail industry
Nov 2013 – ORR publishes the Final Determinations
Apr 2014 – New Control Period begins

I hope this helps to clarify the present position.

Frances Duffy
Director of Rail Directorate