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ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

?? May 2011

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Scotland RUS (Generation 2)
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Dear Sir

Aberdeen City Council - Draft Scotland Route Utilisation Strategy

Thank you for your response to our letter of 17th February regarding the above.

The response is disappointing and there are a number of further points that Aberdeen City Council would wish to respond to in regard to the views expressed.

The response acknowledges the existing peak period problem of train overcrowding but argues that in general passengers do not have to stand for longer than 10 minutes. The suggestion seems to be that it would not be cost effective to put in place measures to reduce the peak period standing time and that there should be an acceptance that standing times of up to 20 minutes would be acceptable.

The view of Aberdeen City Council is that passenger standing times are greater than that suggested and the number of trains affected by overcrowding is already an issue. As stated in our previous response, anecdotal evidence suggests significant levels of congestion on peak period trains and this along with the issue of overcrowding on platforms is a significant issue.

The Nestrans' RTS monitoring report indicates growth in rail usage in the north east significantly above national passenger increases, having seen increases of 91% at Dyce and 129% at Inverurie since 2004/05.

Results also show that passenger numbers are increasing at a greater rate than passenger miles travelled, indicating that more local journeys are being made in the region. Along with the local, regional and national plans to focus developments on rail corridors and encourage greater rail patronage, this growth in demand is likely to continue. Even small improvements in the north east in recent years have resulted in significant additional demand and it is therefore disappointing that in your view no

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cost effective solutions can be provided to help cater for overcrowding caused by this increased demand.

To reiterate, it is of concern to Aberdeen City Council that the RUS does not identify any measures which we believe would be of significant help in alleviating the overcrowding issues raised above.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Bochel
Head of Planning and Sustainable Development