Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence on the Railway Policing (Scotland) Bill.

As you may be aware SEStran is the statutory Regional Transport Partnership (RTP) with a membership of eight councils and a much wider range of stakeholders in the South East of Scotland. All RTPs are charged with the key function of planning and strengthening the delivery of a Regional Transport Strategy, in our case this is for the 1.6 million and growing population of the South East of Scotland area.

It would be helpful if the “engagement with railway operators” section of the Bill as introduced made specific reference to the need to engage with RTPs in terms of the railway policing management forum, agreement of priorities and objectives and engagement of the wider stakeholder community. At present SEStran has a regional rail forum, which could be utilised to engage with, and obtain views of persons and bodies currently listed in the Bill. We would welcome RTPs being specifically mentioned, given our strategy objectives to increase the use of railway connectivity and safety across the South East of Scotland.

George Eckton
Partnership Director
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