

**PE1626/I**

Scottish Government submission of 3 May 2017

In response to the questions regarding petition PE1626 raised at the Committee's meeting on 27 April 2017.

**What is meant by wholesale regulation?**

'Wholesale re-regulation' refers to nationwide re-regulation of bus services carried out either through a national franchise or by compelling all local authorities to franchise or directly operate bus services.

**What processes for partnership working the Government refers to, and how these would be simplified?**

The current processes for statutory Quality Partnerships are set out in the Transport (Scotland) Act. We are considering whether that legislative framework is adequately flexible to provide a true basis for partnership between local transport authorities and bus operators. We will hold a full public consultation on our proposals.

**Why there needs to be a 'case' made for franchising and what the criteria for that test would be.**

Franchising means that local authorities would take on a substantial financial risk using public money. Therefore the local authority would be expected to make an assessment of the full costs of moving to a franchising model and weigh those against the benefits for the public in such a move. There will be a full consultation on this and all of the elements of the proposed Transport Bill.