Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson na h-Eaconamaidh, Turasachd agus Còmhdhail
Rt Hon Stephen Flynn MSP
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Willie Rennie MSP
Convener
Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: transport.committee@parliament.scot

17 October 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to inform you of the First Ministers decision to rollout the next phase of the £2 Bus Fare Cap in the NESTRANS area of Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire in April 2027. This marks the next major step in our commitment to expand the £2 fare cap beyond the Highlands and Islands and towards a nationwide £2 Bus Fare Cap – supporting people with everyday travel costs and helping with the cost of living while encouraging greater use of public transport and contributing to our climate objectives.

Between the Highlands and Islands and Strathclyde, bus fares are now capped across 60% of the land area of Scotland and is in place for where half of the population of Scotland live. The cap is available to all, not just residents, in the areas where it is in place. The further expansion into the North East will increase the proportion of land area where bus fares are capped to 68% and put the cap in place for around 60% of where the population live.

Further to my previous update on the Better Buses legislation, as mentioned in my letter of 30 September, we are looking to make progress in supporting franchising and bringing control of the bus network in Scotland into public hands. This will build on the existing regulatory structures for bus services to specify minimum adequate service levels across the country by the end of this parliament. I look forward to setting out further details in the new year and to engaging further with you on these matters ahead of that.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN FLYNN

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