Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport
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Turasachd agus Còmhdhail
Rt Hon Stephen Flynn MSP
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Willie Rennie MSP
Convener
Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: transport.committee@parliament.scot

12 October 2026

Dear Convener,

Transport Committee Session Updates

At the Transport Committee evidence session on 9 September 2026, I agreed to write the Committee with an update on several issues. The requested information is below.

The committee asked when an evaluation of the £2 bus fare cap in the Highlands and Islands region will be made available, and whether this evaluation would include consideration of the impact of the £2 cap on rail passenger numbers. I can confirm that a full evaluation on the £2 bus fare cap will be undertaken in early 2027 following the 12-month pilot period. The evaluation will be made available to the Committee and will include consideration of the impact of the bus fare cap on rail passenger numbers.

The Committee also asked the date upon which I first became aware of the withdrawal of summer Loganair flights between Inverness and the Northern and Western Isles. I can advise that I was first made aware of the potential withdrawal of these services on 29 May. The Committee also requested clarification as to whether a date has been set for the planned summit on Scottish regional aviation connectivity. I am pleased to confirm that our Intra-Scotland Air Connectivity Event took place on 29 September with a range of key stakeholders.

During the evidence session, I was asked when the Scottish Government intends to introduce its Better Buses legislation, which issues this is seeking to address, and whether this will be a standalone Bill or multiple Bills. In line with our 100 day commitment, we have commenced engagement on our prospective Better Buses legislation, which aims to help enhance the delivery of bus services across Scotland. As I noted to the Committee, I am keen to ensure any future legislative proposals support timely and effective interventions.

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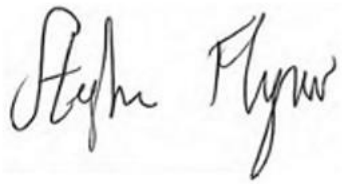
There are a range of potential approaches that could achieve this, including through primary and secondary legislation, and work is ongoing to consider the most appropriate measures. We intend to consult on potential options in due course before decisions are taken on next steps and I will keep the Committee updated. I look forward to working with you as part of this to ensure that we deliver the change that the public expect.

I was also asked whether the 1 October 2026 deadline for local bus service operators to provide onboard visual and audio announcements, as set out in the Public Services Vehicles (Accessible Information) Regulations 2023, will be met. The Public Services Vehicles (Accessible Information) Regulations 2023 are reserved to UK Government and therefore this information is not held by Transport Scotland. The Department for Transport may have an overview on likely compliance at a UK level but to date this has not been shared with Transport Scotland.

I hope that this information sufficiently addresses the questions the Transport Committee raised and I look forward to continuing to engage with the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



STEPHEN FLYNN

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