Dear Paul

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

When we met in London on 18 October we discussed several issues including the British Transport Police. I would like to build upon that discussion and seek confirmation that our aspirations for railway policing services provided to cross-border operators, passenger franchises and freight operators are aligned.

We plan to introduce a Bill to the Scottish Parliament soon which will build upon the skills, knowledge and experience of the British Transport Police and enhance railway policing in Scotland through integration and direct access to the local, specialist and national resources of Police Scotland. A key aim will be to maintain and enhance the safety of passengers and staff.

I understand our respective officials are already working closely on a range of matters to give effect to this policy and I am grateful for the positive and helpful support your department has provided to date. I would now welcome reassurance that you share our aspiration to provide a seamless railway policing service for those passengers, staff and goods using cross-border services.

There is a need to consider and address command and control, jurisdiction and operational policing issues and plans being developed by our officials would see these covered by section 90 and section 104 orders in the UK Parliament.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that the UK Government will work with us to put in place arrangements that will offer a seamless policing service for cross-border passengers and operators to secure effective and efficient policing operations under the proposed new arrangements.