

# **PE2116/N: Accelerate the implementation of bus franchising powers**

## **UK Department for Transport written submission, 11 February 2025**

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2024 to the Secretary of State about PE2116: Accelerate the implementation of bus franchising powers.

The petition calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to improve the process for implementing the bus franchising powers contained in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019.

I am grateful to the Committee for the opportunity to comment. However, due to transport being a devolved matter for the Scottish Government, it would not be appropriate for me to do so. It is expected that all options were thoroughly evaluated during the policy development phase when the legislation was initially presented to the Scottish Parliament.

As you may be aware, the post of Traffic Commissioner for Scotland is currently vacant, and the functions are being covered by the Senior Traffic Commissioner in his capacity as Deputy Traffic Commissioner for Scotland. A recruitment exercise was held in early 2024 and was unsuccessful in finding an appointable candidate. Officials are working towards re-running this campaign in Spring 2025. Representatives from both UK Government and the Scottish Government have been involved in both recruitment rounds.

The Senior Traffic Commissioner and his officials will, of course, continue to work with Scottish Government officials to implement any approved scheme.

Yours sincerely,

**SIMON LIGHTWOOD MP  
MINISTER FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT**