Minister for Transport
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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Edward Mountain, MSP
Convener, Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
By email: netzero.committee@Parliament.Scot

13 September 2023

Dear Convener

SCOTRAIL PEAK FARES REMOVAL PILOT

I confirmed today that the ScotRail peak fares removal pilot will operate between 2 October 2023 and 29 March 2024, one of the key transport commitments in our recently published Programme for Government.

The Programme for Government makes clear our commitment to tackle poverty and encourage a shift towards sustainable transport. The peak fares pilot will save people money and encourage a shift away from cars and towards greener rail travel.

It is an exciting and unique opportunity to encourage more people to choose a safe, reliable, and green form of public transport. We know that there is much to be done in encouraging people back to rail if we are to achieve our net zero targets.

We will evaluate the impact this temporary change in pricing has on the demand for rail services. Combined with the existing 'Kids for a Quid' offer and a freeze on ScotRail fares until the pilot is over, we are making rail more affordable for hard-pressed families.

Patronage is increasing as more people return to hybrid working. Recent world class events such as the UCI Championships and the Edinburgh Festival have contributed too as more people travel around Scotland. We want to build on this growth.

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I will of course keep Parliament informed as the Pilot progresses.

Yours sincerely

FIONA HYSLOP

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