

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

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

29 February 2024

Dear Convener,

Further to the appearance of Mairi McAllan in her former capacity of Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition at the evidence session with the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee and a question raised by Douglas Lumsden MSP regarding Caledonian Sleeper, I am responding in my capacity of Cabinet Secretary for Transport. Please see my response below.

As the Committee is aware on 25 June 2023 Caledonian Sleeper services transferred into public control and ownership. Sleeper services are now provided within the public sector, by an arm's length company owned and controlled by the Scottish Government.

When Caledonian Sleeper has one full year of financial information the Scottish Government will publish this information on Transport Scotland website.

Scottish Ministers have been supporting and investing in all efforts to further develop this service, and helping the team deliver its most successful years on record. The first summer season of the service being in public ownership has proved stronger than the previous year with passenger numbers up over 17,000 in the period from May to September 2023, versus same period in 2022.

Passenger journeys are anticipated to be around 300,000 this year, reflecting a 13% increase from 2022-23, and nearly returning to pre-pandemic levels.

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I hope this response is helpful and addresses the questions raised by Mr Lumsden at the Committee evidence session.

Yours sincerely,

FIONA HYSLOP

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