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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener, Net Zero Committee.
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

15 May 2024

ScotRail Peak Fares Pilot

Dear Edward,

The Scottish Government's ambition is to grow the railway in Scotland. We know new rail investment can create real education, business and tourism opportunities and help breathe life into communities. This is currently most apparent with the soon-to-open £116m Levenmouth rail link.

Bold initiatives such as our ScotRail Peak Fares Removal pilot help to provide an alternative to travelling by car. Therefore the Scottish Government is able to confirm that the ScotRail Peak Fares Removal Pilot has been extended for a further three months until 27 September 2024.

For the pilot to be effective it needs to lead to a significant uptake of new passengers. We have listened to the many positive benefits the removal of peak fares has had so far, and to continue this we need to grow commuter and passenger numbers, or these advantages will not be financially sustainable to continue in the long term. This extension allows us to capture more data to understand the impact the Pilot has had and make informed decisions on future fares policy.

The Scottish Government will consider carefully the impact of the pilot and the long-term sustainability of such a proposition before committing to any reinstatement of the pilot after 27 September 2024.

During the pilot, ScotRail will continue to ensure that all fares and products set and controlled by it which are valid in the off-peak are valid to travel all day.

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Cabinet Secretary for Transport

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