



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Ellie Harrison
Chairperson
Get Glasgow Moving

09 October 2024

Dear Ellie

Local Services Franchises (Traffic Commissioner Notices and Panels) (Scotland) Regulations 2024

I'm writing regarding the [Local Services Franchises \(Traffic Commissioner Notices and Panels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#), which the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee considered on 8 October.

As you will be aware, the purpose of this instrument is to make further provision with respect to the panels to be convened by the Traffic Commissioner and, in particular, to make provision with respect to the appointment, removal and replacement of panel members, the remuneration of members, and the process to be followed by a panel in making decisions. The instrument also makes provision with respect to the notices issued by the Traffic Commissioner in relation to a proposed franchising framework, or a proposed variation or revocation of a framework.

Before determining whether to make any recommendation to the Scottish Parliament in relation to the instrument, the Committee agreed to write to you to gather further information.

The Committee would welcome your response to the following questions:

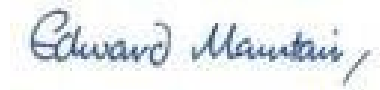
1. Can you explain why you think safeguards built into system governing who the Traffic Commissioner can appoint to a local service franchising panel, aimed at avoiding bias amongst members (set out in Regulation 3 of the draft Local Services Franchises (Traffic Commissioner Notices and Panels) (Scotland) Regulations 2024) are insufficient?
2. What is your preferred alternative approval process for a proposed local bus service franchising scheme, assuming the Traffic Commissioner appointed panel were to be removed from the process? Can you explain why you think this process would produce better outcomes?
3. Would you prefer to see the current approval system for local service franchising schemes enacted now, even as an interim measure, rather than potentially wait a considerable period for the legislative change required to

Contact: Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email netzero@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

introduce a revised system, which could potentially delay the introduction of local service franchising in Scotland?

In order for the Committee to consider this instrument again before the deadline for annulment has passed, we would appreciate a response by 22 October. Apologies for this short deadline.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue horizontal line.

**Edward Mountain MSP
Convener**