



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Richard Turfitt
Senior Traffic Commissioner
Traffic Commissioner for Scotland

09 October 2024

Dear Mr Turfitt

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.

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. What, if any, discussions have you had with the Scottish Government about the appointment, operation and decision making processes of panels to consider proposed local service franchising schemes? Has the Scottish Government provided, or expected to provide, any advice or guidance on these matters?
2. In seeking to appoint members of a panel to consider a proposed franchising scheme, how would you seek to ensure that the views of current and potential bus users and bus operator staff were properly represented?
3. How do you intend to ensure that members of any panel appointed to consider a proposed franchising scheme were truly independent from any commercial parties that could potentially be involved in franchised operations?

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,

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener

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.