

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Ministear an Àiteachais agus Ceangal
Jim Fairlie MSP
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Edward Mountain MSP
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament,
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10 June 2024

Dear Edward

The Scottish Government remains supportive of a new station in Winchburgh and it is my understanding the station proposal originated as developer led station, as outlined in the Developer's original Masterplan.

The Scottish Government also acknowledges the position of West Lothian Council and Winchburgh Developments Limited's and their recent publicity calling for the proposed station in Winchburgh to be 'led' by the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland. This is a complicated request and requires further significant internal investigation by my officials.

However, should the station be delivered, Transport Scotland, via ScotRail, have committed to fund its fit out and the station running costs. Funding of the project remains a significant challenge for all parties with an interest in the station proposal.

To update the Committee on recent progress, I am pleased to confirm that my officials and I met with representatives from West Lothian Council, Winchburgh Development Limited and Network Rail on 17 April 2024 for a constructive discussion on the proposed station.

During the meeting, I indicated I am also keen to continue the collaborative multi-stakeholder approach now being taken and to convene a further meeting and a site visit in the coming weeks to ensure continued progress of the station proposal is made.

A number of actions to progress the station were agreed and I fully expect the development of the business case and routes towards locating potential funding streams to be discussed again, having formed part of the previous meeting agenda in April.

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I am also pleased to confirm my officials and I will attend a follow-up meeting with the organisations I mentioned previously on 25 June 2024 to further progress the matter. However, it is important to note that a number of issues require detailed investigation before any further commitment towards delivery of the station could be made.

It is clear there is keen interest to build a station at Winchburgh, so I have asked my officials to commit to providing a regular update to the Committee on the progress of this proposal, which remains of significant MSP and public interest.

Yours sincerely,



JIM FAIRLIE

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