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Dear Mr Cruickshank

Proposals for a new approach to delivering public transport infrastructure developments

Passenger Focus welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above consultation.

General comments

Passenger Focus welcomes moves to simplify the legislative process surrounding public transport infrastructure developments.

It is important, however, that the new procedures guarantee adequate public consultation. Notices should be placed prominently in newspapers and, in the case of applications concerning stations, at the stations to be affected and on line of route. It is also important to ensure adequate public access to the documentation surrounding the proposal and that this is presented in a clear and succinct way.

Specific comments *(paragraph/page numbers refer to the original consultation document)*

- Paragraph 4.14
The paper states that certain statutory bodies are to be automatically consulted on all applications (e.g. Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, local authorities). However, we feel that there is need to ensure that certain sectoral statutory bodies are also automatically covered on relevant applications. For instance, Passenger Focus is a statutory body with a specific remit for passenger rail and it makes sense for it to be included on passenger rail based Bills. This is similar to the approach adopted in the Transport Works Act 1992 whereby specific bodies are listed as consultees against specific areas/categories.
- Paragraph 4.15



Passenger Focus believes it is important that the promoters of the Bill also consult non-statutory organisations and, therefore, endorse the sentiment expressed in paragraph 4.15

- Paragraph 4.22
Passenger Focus believes that the criteria for the proposed content of a promoter's application should include a requirement to set out the efforts made to consult and the views expressed by the consultees. Including this as a part of the submission would help to 'encourage' the promoters to consult in the first place.

If you would like to discuss this in any more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mike Hewitson
Senior Policy Adviser