Hugh Henry MSP  
Convener  
Public Audit Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Date:  
17 March 2011

Dear Hugh,

Public Audit Committee Meeting - 2 March 2011

Thank you for your letter of 8 March following my appearance at Committee on 2 March.

At Committee I promised to write back and clarify the policy and legislative position regarding the inclusion of trams within the National Concessionary Travel Scheme.

While the Scottish Government recognises the significant investment being made and still to be made in the tram network, a decision of whether to extend concessionary travel to the tram network will be made nearer to the project's conclusion. That position was first made clear as part of the review of the National Concessionary Travel Scheme in May 2009.

The National Concessionary Travel Scheme is currently underpinned by two Scottish Statutory Instruments. The most relevant of these, The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Eligible Persons and Eligible Services) (Scotland) Order 2006 (SSI 117/2006), defines an eligible service for the purposes of the Scheme. This does not currently include Tram networks and as such we believe in terms of legislation any decision to extend the scheme to include another mode of transport would require the approval of the Scottish Parliament.

In your letter you have asked for further information on whether, in calculating the projects running costs and benefits cost ratio, a calculation was made about usage by concessionary travel card holders. This is entirely a matter for the City of Edinburgh Council.

DAVID MIDDLETON

www.transportscotland.gov.uk

An agency of The Scottish Government
Dear David

**Edinburgh trams: Interim report**
Thank you for providing evidence to the Public Audit Committee at its meeting on 2 March 2011. At that meeting the Committee considered the consequences of the National concessionary travel scheme extending to include trams.

In oral evidence you committed to provide the Committee with further information on whether the national concessionary travel scheme currently applies to trams; and if not, whether primary or secondary legislation would be required to enable the National concessionary travel scheme to be extended to include travel on trams.

The Committee would also welcome further information on whether, in calculating the projects running costs and the benefit cost ratio, a calculation was made about usage by concessionary travel card holders.

I would be grateful if you could respond on these issues by Thursday 17 March. Please let me know if this deadline poses you any difficulties. Should you have any queries, please contact the clerk to the committee on 0131 348 5390 or pa.committee@scottish.parliament.uk.

Yours sincerely

**Hugh Henry MSP, Convener**