Dear Mr Black,

MONITORING REPORT ON THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN THE SPT AREA

I wish to draw your attention to the attached report due to be considered on 26 June 2009 at the Operations Committee of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

Paragraph 10 on page 12 refers to an error in the algorithm that extrapolates the number of passenger trips generated from ZoneCard sales. For 2008/09 it suggests the figures were overstated by 7.26 million passenger journeys, a truly significant figure.

You will recall that the Public Audit Committee was told that the extension of the current ScotRail passenger rail franchise was justified because its success gave little incentive for investment. If the figures were overstated for this year, could they have been overstated for previous years? And, if the figures were overstated does this question in any way the justification for the extension?

As you know the Committee was concerned about wrong information being presented on a number of occasions during the course of its recent inquiry. Now we find that First ScotRail has overstated its passenger figures for Strathclyde.

Can I ask that you urgently investigate this to determine whether this has any implications for the work we recently conducted? I am sure you will agree that
accurate information is vital when decisions of the magnitude of the First ScotRail contract are being considered.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Henry MSP
Convener