

21 June 2012

Our Ref RD/N13/8

Your Ref

Department for Transport  
Rail fares and ticketing review  
3/15 Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Response to Consultation on Rail fares and Ticketing Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the Review of Rail Fares and Ticketing. Nestrans is the statutory Regional Transport Partnership for Aberdeen City & Shire and takes a strategic overview on transport matters including rail.

A report was considered by the Nestrans Board at its meeting on 20 June and the following was agreed as their response:

- ~ Rail fares are a crucial determinant of travel choice and should continue to have some form of regulation to ensure that fares do not rise unnecessarily or to the detriment of the travelling public;
- ~ There is general agreement that the balance between fare-paying passengers and taxpayers contributions through subsidy could be better managed;
- ~ Within the regulation ensuring that increases are kept to realistic levels, there should be opportunities to better spread loadings, to make better use of capacity at quiet times and to recognise that parts of some longer-distance routes are quieter than others;
- ~ Opportunities to encourage use avoiding the busiest times should be welcomed, such as off-peak season tickets;
- ~ It is unacceptable to have significant discrepancies between fares paid by passengers on the same train, because of when the tickets were bought;
- ~ There is a need to ensure that ticketing is logical, in that a shorter journey on a train should never be more expensive than a longer journey on the same train (this is a concern previously expressed by Nestrans as a result of promotional tickets not being available from smaller stations).

I hope that you will be able to take account of these comments in assessing the consultation. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this response or require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Rab Dickson  
Transport Strategy Manager