

## Alex Rowley MSP Member for Mid Scotland and Fife

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Cabinet Secretary for Transport Scottish Government St Andrew's House Regent Road Edinburgh EH1 3DG

16 September 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

## **ISSUES WITH FIFE TRAIN SERVICES**

I am writing to you to raise again the very poor train services running in and out of Fife at peak times.

I cannot understand why people are being expected to pack in like sardines or are left at the station when they simply cannot get on. As one constituent put it to me, is it acceptable that she is forced to be cramped up against strangers, putting her in a very uncomfortable position?

I met with Joanne Maguire earlier in the summer and was given an assurance that ScotRail understood the services in and out of Fife were poor and that action was being taken to resolve the issues causing this. There was an improvement with more carriages put on for a few weeks which I welcomed, writing to Joanne Maguire to share my thanks for ScotRail's attention to the issue.

However, things have steadily deteriorated again, and we are back to a situation where there are not enough carriages for the number of passengers travelling, making for a very unpleasant journey to and from work.

As I am sure you can imagine, your announcement that you are reintroducing peak fares has simply added insult to injury with rail users asking why on earth should they pay more for such a poor level of service.

Given that ScotRail seem unable to sort this issue and put on an acceptable level of service, I am asking you to directly intervene and demand that an action plan is put in place to quickly get the level of service up to an acceptable standard.

The people of Fife deserve no less and cannot continue to be expected to put up with the worst rail services in Scotland.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Alex Rowley MSP

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