

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Economy and Gaelic
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig
Kate Forbes MSP
Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Colin Smyth
Convener
Economy and Fair Work Committee

economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot

05 August 2025

Dear Colin,

In my update to you last week (29 July) I indicated that a fresh proposal is now under consideration and that the Scottish Government is exploring this in detail. I also advised you that the First Minister had asked Alexander Dennis to consider a further extension to its consultation period. I am pleased that the company has agreed to that and has extended the consultation by a further four weeks until Friday 12 September. I hope that the Committee will agree with me that this a very welcome development.

As I have said throughout this process, we will continue to undertake extensive work across a number of fronts, engaging with the company, trade unions, the wider public transport sector and the UK Government. The First Minister and I remain keen to ensure that all viable options are being comprehensively explored. That includes the ongoing consideration of how the Scottish Government might support a company-operated furlough scheme as this work develops. We are actively doing everything we properly can, within this Government's powers, to consider solutions to support the retention of bus manufacturing jobs in Scotland.

I will continue to keep you updated.

KATE FORBES

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Silver

