



**Friends of
the Earth
Scotland**



Edward Mountain MSP
Convenor
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Via E-mail

29th May 2023

Dear Convenor,

We write to you to bring to your attention, and that of the committee, to the recent reports published by ASLEF and Friends of the Earth Scotland. These reports lay out in some detail the vital role rail services play in Scotland. The 2021 joint rail unions document '*A Vision for Scotland's Railway*' and Friends of the Earth recent report '*On the Move: Investing in public transport to meet carbon targets and create jobs*' are, to date, the only documents that lay out in detail how Scotland can create the world class rail services that our country needs.

Both reports evidence how investment in rail will help Scotland on the way to a Just Transition, and outline the massive economic opportunities that come with increased investment in rail services and rail infrastructure. Critically they also clearly show the fundamental importance rail services have in helping Scotland deliver its climate targets, by shifting car users and goods from road to rail. As you know transport is Scotland's largest emitter of CO₂ with road travel being the biggest polluter amongst all modes of transport.

There is no time to lose in making the increased investment to make Scotland's rail services more affordable, accessible, and attractive to road users and the Scottish public at large.

In the absence of a vision for Scotland's railways coming from the Scottish Government we would urge you as a committee to initiate a broad inquiry into rail services, and indeed a more integrated transport system in Scotland incorporating all public transport. In initiating such an inquiry you would outline the fundamental role that rail travel and public transport more broadly has in helping Scotland grow its economy and deliver on its challenging but necessary climate targets.

We would be happy to discuss this further with you, or any members, of the committee at a time that is convenient for you and we would be delighted to present evidence to the committee directly as part of a wide and comprehensive inquiry

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Lindsay, Scottish Organiser, ASLEF
Rosie Hampton Friends of the Earth Scotland

Copies of both our reports can be found here:

[Report: On the Move - Investing in public transport - Friends of the Earth Scotland \(foe.scot\)](#)

[A Vision for Scotland's Railways | ASLEF](#)