

17 February 2010

## **Tolson slams the Scottish Government's reduction in Bus Concessionary Grant!**

Jim Tolson MSP, Deputy Spokesperson on Local Government and Transport for the Scottish Liberal Democrats today attacked the Scottish Government's savage cuts in the Bus Concessionary Grant to be implemented in April. At the moment, bus operators receive a reimbursement of 73.6% of concessionary bus fares from the Scottish Government which is to be substantially reduced to 67% of fares.

Jim commented "This move will result in major cuts in services across Scotland, probably hitting the rural areas the worst! Today, I am writing to John Swinney, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, to urge him to reverse his decision.

In Fife, such a reduction in the grant will mean a cut of £1.2m in income to the main operator Stagecoach. In turn, this will result in a reduction of journey coverage, particularly affecting the rural areas where services are run on a marginal operating profit."

**Ends**