

Tolson Seeks Assurances on Rail Tolls from the Minister

Today, Jim Tolson MSP wrote to the Stewart Stevenson, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change seeking assurance that no tolls would be imposed on the freight operators using the Alloa – Kincardine section of the new Stirling – Alloa – Kincardine rail line.

Jim Tolson said “I am very concerned about the possibility of tolls being used to recoup some of the costs of the improvements on the line. The line hasn’t opened yet but when it does, we need to encourage the freight operators to use it. If tolls are imposed on the freight operators for the use of the line, then there will be great reluctance to use this route. They have existing access rights to use the alternative route via the Forth Bridge which are unaffected by the construction of the new route.

Freight trains operating via the Alloa – Kincardine line would free capacity on the Forth Bridge and the Fife Circle line. This will allow additional passenger and freight services to be provided with the resultant economic benefits for Fife. As a regular commuter into Edinburgh, I am well aware of the need for improvements in the rail service. The number of passenger rail journeys is rising each year and we need to plan for improvements to the service now”.