

27 May 2009

Noisy Freight Trains

After receiving numerous complaints about the noise of the freight trains in Kincardine at night, Jim Tolson MSP for Dunfermline wrote to Transport Scotland and has now received a response. Transport Scotland have confirmed that in the final stages of construction of the new line in early 2008, the freight operator EWS (now DB Schenker) advised of changes to their operational requirements and their decision to run trains throughout the night.

This has caused major disruption to residents in Kincardine as well as those in Clackmannanshire. Despite public meetings and letters to the Minister, the freight operator has insisted that they need to use this route through the night for commercial reasons.

Jim commented "I spoke to a Transport Scotland manager and was informed that this was the result of timetabling problems with Network Rail, particularly at the 'pinch points' at Glasgow and Shawbridge. Whilst realising that the operator has commercial reasons for changing their operational requirements, the residents should have been told about these changes long before they happened and given the opportunity to express their concerns.

Transport Scotland is currently analysing the results of 24 hour noise analysis and the results should be available soon. I am hopeful that these results will initiate noise mitigation measures such as triple glazing to help the residents of Kincardine get a decent night's sleep before too long."

Ends

Notes to Editor

1. Transport Scotland is currently analysing the results of 24 hour noise monitoring along the length of the new line, and these will be used to ascertain which properties qualify for noise mitigation measures. They will also be carrying out vibration monitoring at representative sites to confirm assumptions made during the promotion of the project.
2. In correspondence from DB Schenker, they state that it is for the promoters of the railway to explain why they did not inform residents of the operating hours. They advise them to contact Transport Scotland and Clackmannanshire Council with any concerns about the operational timetable.