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Dear David,

DRAFT GLASGOW COMMONWEALTH GAMES BILL

Thank you for your letter dated 5th July 2007 regarding the above named Bill.

Firstly, let me thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bill. We are happy to support the bid for the Games but feel it is important to make the following comments on the Bill.

Our main observations relate to paragraphs 31, 36 and 38 of the Bill as the other paragraphs do not appear to impact on the railway and our activities.

Within Paragraph 31 of the Draft Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill, reference is made to the Organising Committee consulting with Ministers and Local Authorities on the "Transport Plan". Similarly in Paragraph 38 reference is made to consultation by Ministers. As owner and operator of the rail network, Network Rail would suggest that transport stakeholders such as ourselves, First ScotRail and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) should be incorporated as consultees. This will ensure that any rail proposals included in the "Transport Plan" are strategically aligned and integrated within the current rail network.

Please note, that any proposals that might impact on the railway which involve matters such as alterations to stations, changes to scheduled pattern of services, etc., would have to be considered and implemented in line with current railway legislation and industry wide processes and agreements.

On paragraph 36, I would point out that the powers of compulsory purchase should be clarified to be clear that these could not extend to the operational railway or any other land owned by Network Rail.

I believe it would be useful to hold a meeting to allow us to explain our concerns and to better understand any proposals that may affect the railway. I will ask my PA, Amanda Murray, to contact your office to arrange a suitable date and time.

Assuming the bid is successful, we look forward to working with the Games Team and hope these comments are of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,



RON McAULAY
DIRECTOR, SCOTLAND