

Mr I Williamson
Cramond and Barnton Community Council

cramton17@gmail.com

Date 5 August 2016

Your ref

Our ref SR942666/CD

Dear Mr Williamson

BUS SERVICES TO NORTH-WEST EDINBURGH

Thank you for your further letter of 19 August 2016 on this matter.

I note that you are mainly concerned with the service 41, the absence of choice and the varying standard of service arising from the Queensferry Road and associated roads infrastructure.

The legislation governing bus services gives the Council no power to review commercial buses, or to co-ordinate such a review. The Council is responsible for public roads and associated infrastructure. It can manage these in a manner which promotes bus services, for example by introducing bus priority measures, but cannot compel bus operators to use them.

Similarly, at Edinburgh Gateway station, Network Rail (funded by the Scottish Government) will provide bus facilities, but neither Network Rail nor the Scottish Government can require bus operators to use them.

As my previous letter indicated, the Council may only support services if a need is not met by commercial services. Such a supported service may not compete with a commercial service, so a service cannot be supported if it substantially coincides with a commercial route.

You note the dividend Lothian Buses pays to its shareholders, predominantly the City of Edinburgh Council, and ask what services benefit from this return. This money is not ring fenced for any particular services. It contributes to general Council income, and therefore to the entire range of services provided by the Council, of which transport (in any form) is only a small part.

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I hope that you find our response helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Lowrie', is positioned above the printed name.

Stuart Lowrie
Public Transport Manager