

Our Ref: NS/GL

12 June 2020

Mr Ian Williamson
Secretary
Cramond & Barnton Community Council

Dear Ian

Withdrawal of Sunday Service 41 during Covid 19 Lockdown

I refer to your letter of 5 June regarding the withdrawal of Sunday Service 41.

The service network currently in operation is to provide 'essential' travel for those allowed to travel during the lockdown period. Although we are now in Phase 1 of the government's roadmap to recovery, journeys should still only be undertaken if 'necessary'. Normal consultation and engagement with communities has been waived by the government to allow operators to respond to changing demand and give priority to critical workers often at very short notice.

To provide some context over the Sunday withdrawal, for the initial period from lockdown until the Sunday service was removed, customer usage was the lowest across the network and on Sundays averaged 3 per journey.

As our limited available staff resources at that time were already fully committed, we had to re-deploy these to areas where critical journeys were not being catered for. Current loadings on the Monday to Saturday journeys, unlike many other services have shown little or no increase. On this basis it is likely that we are looking at Phase 3 of the government roadmap for this position to be relaxed and therefore this will be the earliest opportunity to re-instate the Sunday service provision. I would also add that we review customer usage across all of our current services daily and adjust as and when we believe the timing is appropriate.

I welcome your offer of assistance and acknowledge the positive approach you take on public transport matters. I can also confirm as mentioned above that in these unprecedented circumstances 'normal' practices regarding service provision and traditional consultation timescales and procedures have been replaced by a request to place priority on consultation with NHS facilities and critical suppliers for the foreseeable future.

Kind regards



Nigel Serafini
Interim Managing Director