



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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FOI Request no: 2010-018680

18<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Mark Shanks,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBLE NEW RAILWAY  
STATION AT BONNYBRIDGE**

Thank you for your request for information relating to the possible new railway bridge at Bonnybridge which we received on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Your request has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

The information you requested is not held by the Scottish Parliament and therefore we cannot provide it to you. However, you may wish to contact the Scottish Government to locate the Ministerial correspondence you seek. I've enclosed the contact details for making a freedom of information request to the Scottish Government:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

<mailto:ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk>

For completeness I have checked if any parliamentary questions have been asked about a possible new railway station at Bonnybridge and this is also available for you to search at the following link:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/index.htm>

I used the search term "Bonnybridge" and located the following items:

## Rail Network

**S3W-22346 - Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Con) (Date Lodged Wednesday, March 25, 2009)**: To ask the Scottish Executive what plans it has to reopen railway stations at (a) Grangemouth and (b) Bonnybridge.

**Answered by Stewart Stevenson (Friday, April 24, 2009)**: I refer the member to the answer to question S3W-22344 on 24 April 2009. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/Default.aspx>.

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**S3W-22345 - Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Con) (Date Lodged Wednesday, March 25, 2009)**: To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it has given to the reopening of railway stations at (a) Grangemouth and (b) Bonnybridge.

**Answered by Stewart Stevenson (Friday, April 24, 2009)**: I refer the member to the answer to question S3W-22344 on 24 April 2009. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/Default.aspx>.

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**S3W-22344 - Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Con) (Date Lodged Wednesday, March 25, 2009)**: To ask the Scottish Executive for what reasons railway stations at (a) Grangemouth and (b) Bonnybridge were not included in the Strategic Transport Projects Review.

**Answered by Stewart Stevenson (Friday, April 24, 2009)**: The potential for a new railway station at Bonnybridge was specifically considered as part of the Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR). However, no proposal for Grangemouth emerged from the initial option generation exercise, nor was it proposed by any stakeholders.

The recommendations of the STPR are based on the most robust analysis and evidence available taking the future needs of Scotland's strategic transport infrastructure into account. This concluded that there was no case for additional stations to meet the strategic transport needs in the area.

In addition, recent consideration by Transport Scotland found that reopening either railway station could potentially have an adverse impact on the existing rail network, such as the Grangemouth Freight Hub and the Edinburgh to Glasgow Improvements Programme which are included in the STPR recommendations.

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**S2W-28058 - Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West) (Ind) (Date Lodged Wednesday, August 30, 2006)**:

To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S2W-16435 by Nicol Stephen on 24 May 2005, whether the final report of the feasibility study into the provision of a new station and park and ride facility at Allandale/Castlecary and lower level studies of other local stations including High Bonnybridge have been submitted by Falkirk Council and, if so, what the findings were and what decisions have ensued.

**Answered by Tavish Scott (Thursday, October 05, 2006)**: The final report of the feasibility study into the provision of a new park and ride station at Allandale was submitted to the Scottish Executive by consultants acting on behalf of Falkirk Council earlier this year.

The report, which took the form of a STAG appraisal, considered the feasibility of a station and park and ride at Allandale, the impact of this site on other rail stations and the overall use of the rail network and the feasibility of other stations on the rail line at Bonnybridge and Ayrhill. The study was also expanded to include the operational feasibility and economic appraisal of a station and park and ride site at Bannockburn.

The report concluded that the development of an alternative park and ride facility at Bannockburn would provide best value for money and that this option should be taken forward to a Design and Development Appraisal stage.

In view of the strong case set out in the STAG report for the development of Bannockburn over Allandale, I have agreed that Bannockburn should be further appraised and that no further work should be taken on Allandale.

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**S2W-16435 - Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West) (Ind) (Date Lodged Tuesday, May 10, 2005)**: To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it is giving to the provision of railway stations at High Bonnybridge, Allandale or Castlecary.

**Answered by Nicol Stephen (Tuesday, May 24, 2005)**: The Scottish Executive awarded Falkirk Council £450,000 from the Public Transport Fund to undertake a feasibility study to improve rail services along the A80/M80 corridor. The study includes provision of a new station and park and ride facility at Allandale/Castlecary and lower level studies of other local stations including High Bonnybridge. We expect to receive the final report in the autumn for consideration.

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### Ministerial Correspondence

**S1W-12957 - Michael Matheson (Central Scotland) (SNP) (Date Lodged Wednesday, January 31, 2001)**: To ask the Scottish Executive when the

Minister for Health and Community Care will reply to the letter dated 15 December 2000 from Mr R. Wilson of Bonnybridge.

**Answered by Malcolm Chisholm (Wednesday, February 14, 2001):** Officials replied to Mr Wilson on 29 January 2001.

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## Transport

**[S1W-2580 - Dennis Canavan \(Falkirk West\) \(\) \(Date Lodged Tuesday, November 16, 1999\)](#)**: To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will make representations to Railtrack and to ScotRail for the reopening of Bonnybridge Railway Station.

**Answered by Sarah Boyack (Wednesday, February 23, 2000):** Under the terms of the devolution settlement for railways announced on 31 March 1998, now incorporated in the UK Transport Bill introduced on 1 December 1999, the Scottish Ministers will be able to issue directions and guidance to the Strategic Rail Authority for the franchise providing passenger rail services which begin and end in Scotland. They will reflect strategic priorities for the provision of passenger rail services throughout Scotland. It would then be for the train operating company, in conjunction with Railtrack, to ensure the availability of the necessary infrastructure to meet the terms of the franchise.

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## Finance

**[S1W-1714 - Dennis Canavan \(Falkirk West\) \(\) \(Date Lodged Tuesday, September 28, 1999\)](#)**: To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will make representations to Her Majesty's Government to include Bonnybridge in the assisted area map and in the map for EU Objective 2 assistance.

**Answered by Jack McConnell (Tuesday, October 12, 1999):** The Scottish Executive welcomed the plans for new Assisted Areas in Scotland put to the European Commission on 15 July by the UK Government. We recognise that a number of areas not covered by the map have made representations to the Scotland Office concerning the needs of their areas and understand that these points are currently being considered by the UK Government.

The Objective 2 proposals are complementary to those on Assisted Areas and are based on similar, but not identical criteria. In line with the focus of the Objective 2 proposals on areas of need, Bonnybridge featured in the recommendations put forward by the Scottish Executive and is included in the UK Government's Objective 2 proposals. The list of proposed areas has now been submitted by the Government to the European Commission.

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We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please feel free to contact the FOI Specialist at The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP or by e-mail at [foi.officer@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:foi.officer@scottish.parliament.uk)

Please find below Annex A, which explains how we handle FOI requests and reviews.

Yours sincerely

Claire Turnbull  
FOI Specialist

**REQUESTS MADE UNDER  
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

**How we handle FOI requests**

Information on how we handle FOI requests is available on the Parliament's website at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/corporate/foi/Makingrequest.htm>

Alternatively, please contact the Parliament's Public Information Service to request a copy.

**Review**

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your request for information, you can ask us to review our decision and actions. You must do this in writing (or other permanent form) within 40 working days of the date of this letter, stating the reasons for your dissatisfaction, and we will respond within 20 working days of receipt. A request for a review should be made to the FOI Specialist:

Post: FOI Specialist  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Telephone: 0131 348 6913 (RNID Typetalk calls welcome)  
Textphone: 0131 348 3415  
Fax: 0131 348 5378  
E-mail: [foi.officer@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:foi.officer@scottish.parliament.uk)

**Application to the Scottish Information Commissioner**

If, on the outcome of any review, you are still dissatisfied, or if we are unable to resolve any other complaint, then you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner:

Post: The Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610  
Fax: 01334 464611  
Website: [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

A decision by the Scottish Information Commissioner may be appealed, on a point of law, to the Court of Session.

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## **Feedback or comment**

We would welcome feedback or comment on how we handled your request. Please contact the FOI Specialist.

## **Complaints**

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we dealt with your enquiry, then you may wish to raise the matter with the FOI Specialist.

## **How to contact us**

Post:           The Scottish Parliament  
                  Edinburgh  
                  EH99 1SP

Telephone: 0131 348 5000  
              0800 092 7500 (Public Enquiries)  
              0131 348 5395 (Ghàidhlig)

Textphone users can contact us on 0800 092 7100

We also welcome calls using the RNID Typetalk service.

Fax:           0131 348 5601  
E-mail:       [sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk)