



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jackson Carlaw MSP
Member for Eastwood

Fiona Hyslop MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Transport
By E-Mail

18th July 2024

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Major reduction in train services for Eastwood

I am contacting you in relation to the very significant reduction in train services for my constituents in Eastwood following the introduction of the temporary timetable for both the East Kilbride and Neilston train lines.

Both routes have a number of train stops in Eastwood and I am hugely concerned about the vast cuts to local services. On the East Kilbride line, the number of available midweek services from 9am to 5pm on a daily basis has been cut from two per hour to just the one.

The Neilston route has also been detrimentally impacted by the temporary timetable put in place by ScotRail with a number of important morning and evening services now cancelled for the foreseeable future.

In total, the East Kilbride line is operating 28 fewer services each day from Monday to Friday and there is a reduction of 12 services on the Neilston route. The cuts to the weekend timetable is similar with the exception of Saturday services for Neilston where the impact is less acute.

As you are of course aware, ScotRail was formally brought into public ownership by the Scottish Government in April 2022. The Scottish Government made the decision to nationalise ScotRail and must accept blame for the damaging reduction to train services in Eastwood and indeed across Scotland.

It is now just over a week since the temporary timetable was implemented and as Cabinet Secretary for Transport, I would be grateful if you could set out what steps you have so far pursued to seek an early resolution of the ongoing difficulties and to ensure the reinstatement of the cancelled services to ScotRail's train timetable.

The situation whereby train services have been significantly reduced must not be allowed to continue for an extended period. The restoration of a full timetable for train services in my constituency and throughout the country should be a key priority for the Scottish Government.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

Jackson Carlaw CBE MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Eastwood