

13 October 2005

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Dear Susan,

Inverness airport is the main hub airport for the Highlands and Islands and, although it is growing fast, our small population base means it will never be able to offer the range of destinations and carriers that the travelling public require. As a result, people from here require access to other hub airports from where they can get direct flights to their destinations. At present, over 70% of air travellers from Inverness are flying to London, many to get onward connections.

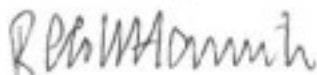
The prospect of a direct rail link from central Inverness to Edinburgh airport is therefore very attractive to the business community of Inverness and the Highlands, making it possible to access a significant air hub by public transport.

In-bound tourism traffic is also very important for our economy, and EARL will allow visitors to Scotland access to the Highlands directly by rail.

In conjunction with the EARL project, we would like to see significant improvements in the rail services north of the Firth of Forth, to provide an hourly express service to Inverness.

Inverness Chamber of Commerce is supportive of the implementation of this major initiative and should you wish to discuss it further at any time then please feel free to get in touch.


Yours sincerely





Simon Cole-Hamilton
Chief Executive

Patrons

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