

23 December 2005

Susan Clark  
EARL Director  
tie Limited  
Verity House  
19 Haymarket Yards  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5BH

Dear Susan

I am pleased to confirm Scottish Financial Enterprise's (SFE's) support for the Edinburgh Airport Rail Link (EARL) project.

As you are aware, SFE is the independent organisation that supports and represents the interests of Scotland's financial services industry. Our members encompass all sectors of the industry including banks and building societies; general insurance, life assurance and pensions; investment management; asset servicing; corporate finance and broking services; professional advisors; and support services. Improved transport connectivity with local and global markets, and improved labour market mobility, are key priorities for the industry to ensure its continuing success.

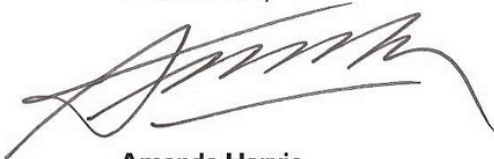
We recognise the importance of EARL to the economic competitiveness of not just the Edinburgh area and the Central Belt but also to the whole of Scotland. First class communications are vital to improving the competitiveness of Scotland for the financial services industry and vital to the growth of Scotland's economy. The EARL project will form an important part of improving our transport infrastructure for the long term.

We are pleased that EARL has been included as one of the key deliverables in the Strategy for the Financial Services Industry in Scotland, published by the Scottish Executive in March 2005. In the Strategy, the Scottish Executive commits to doing everything possible to ensure that the project and the Glasgow Airport Rail Link, which we also support, are achieved within their currently projected timescales of 2010 and 2008 respectively. We are looking to the Executive to ensure that this commitment is met.

Please let me know if you need further information from SFE in support of EARL.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



**Amanda Harvie**  
Chief Executive