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Dear Simon,

During Questions on 12 January you asked me whether the next ScotRail franchise would enable the future operator to get good value for any parallel investment that it might make in the Scottish sleeper service. This followed announcements by the Treasury and the Scottish Government that they would each invest £50 million in that service.

The Caledonian Sleeper service is a devolved matter for Transport Scotland. However, I understand that Scottish Ministers are currently considering options for the specification of rail passenger services for the next ScotRail franchise, principally through an open consultation process, and this includes sleeper services. Responses to this consultation and discussions with potential operators of the future sleeper service will help inform considerations of how those services should be developed.

Transport Scotland has explained that the precise nature of the procurement of sleeper services, vehicle and other sleeper product investment, and sleeper network infrastructure will be subject to robust appraisal and value for money assessment. It does, however, expect that a franchising process will act as a mechanism to allow the market supply base to make proposals as to how best to secure the sustainable development of cross border sleeper services.

If you would like further information, please contact Transport Scotland's Chief Executive, David Middleton, using the following contact details:

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I hope this is helpful. A copy of this letter has been placed in the library of the House.

You ever
John

EARL ATTLEE