

Transport Scotland response to Consultation on Renewal of Block Exemption

- The Scottish Government has a published vision - “That all journeys on Scotland’s bus, rail, ferry, subway and tram networks can be accessed using some form of smart ticketing or payment”.
- Scottish Government (SG) is keen to progress Smart Integrated Ticketing (SIT) across modes, geographical boundaries, operators and local authorities. We feel it is important therefore to keep the Block Ticket Exemption as it is currently to allow transport operators to deliver the vision.
- SG’s current concerns are that there are not enough multi-operator ticket schemes. The Block Ticket Exemption specifically enables the development of and expansion of existing multi-operator and multi-modal ticketing schemes which are considered by SG as key enablers for increased use of public transport and thus forms an important part of delivering the vision. If this was lost a further barrier would be added to developing new multi-operator and multi-modal schemes and could question the viability of the conversion of existing paper based schemes onto a SMART platform something which SG is actively taking forward with public transport operators in Scotland.
- SG is not aware of any adverse consequences from the application of the Block Exemption to the existing schemes and supports the recommendation that it is renewed under its current terms until February 2026 to safeguard investments being made in SMART ticketing platforms by public transport operators and SG.
- We would welcome being kept fully consulted on any proposed guidance amendments.