

By email

pttsbereview@cma.gov.uk

Competition and Markets Authority

Transport Focus, Albany House,
86 Petty France, London SW1H 9EA



www.transportfocus.org.uk

24 May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Public Transport Ticketing Schemes Block Exemption: call for inputs (PTTSBE)

I am responding on behalf of Transport Focus to the above consultation.

Transport Focus is the independent consumer watchdog representing the interests of rail users throughout Great Britain; bus, coach and tram users across England, outside London; and users of the Strategic Road Network in England. Working with transport providers and Governments across England, Scotland and Wales – and in partnership with our colleagues at London TravelWatch – we ensure that the users voice is heard.

Our focus in this brief submission is on consumers rather than operators/suppliers. Competition can clearly be beneficial for consumers but with public transport there are occasions when collaboration and co-ordination can be equally valuable.

The existing Public Transport Ticketing Schemes Block Exemption enables passengers to purchase tickets or travel cards that are valid on the services of all participating operators rather than having to buy separate tickets from each operator used. This degree of cooperation has clear benefits to the consumer. Passengers value the integrated and simplified services that come from multi-modal and multi-operator tickets.

We believe that there is risk that products valued by passengers would not be offered without the presence of, and the reassurance offered by, the block exemption. We believe its removal would have a detrimental impact on consumer choice.

Yours sincerely

✂

Head of Policy