



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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To whom it may concern,

I write to you today as I have concerns over the process of the current public consultation on the proposed timetable changes for Aberdeenshire Council bus services.

I would be grateful if you could treat this with a matter of urgency considering the cut off date of this Sunday.

Many constituents of mine have written to me with their concerns over these changes and I have encouraged them to submit their feedback.

Location of Consultation Events

The consultation events are located in Aberdeen City, Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Ellon – none of which are located within my constituency. In addition to this, none of these consultations are taking place in some local places set to face reduced timetables. On the Stagecoach website it details:

- *In Deeside, the service 201 timetable has been simplified for customers and the route variations have been reduced. As a result of this, it is proposed that Banchory will welcome back a local daytime town service connecting the most popular places in the town. Service to Lumphanan and Torphins has been reduced in line with customer demand, commuter journeys will be maintained with the off-peak journeys withdrawn.*

However – none of the consultation events that take place are in Deeside.

It is concerning that an area that is due to face even further reductions to bus services does not have a local opportunity to ask questions and put forward their comments.

Length of Consultation

In addition to this, notice of this consultation was only provided on 2nd February with the deadline on 16th February, providing only 14 days for local groups to promote and encourage responses.

Can I ask why only 14 days was allowed for this – considering Aberdeenshire Council works to a 20 working day response time?

Accessibility of Consultation

I am sure you can appreciate that some residents who use the bus services are not online and may not even be aware of the ongoing consultation. The only format, out with attending the Consultation Events, is to submit feedback online.

Can I ask how residents who do not have access to email and are unable to attend the Consultation Events due to the short notice and limited locations, are able to submit their feedback?

I would be grateful if you would be able to provide a response to my concerns over the process listed above and if you would be able to work on extending the Consultation or indeed, reviewing the process and carrying out an additional consultation for residents.

All best,



Alexander Burnett
MSP for Aberdeenshire West