



Stephen Flynn MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

5th June 2026

Dear Stephen,

Congratulations on your appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport.

We look forward to working closely with you in this new role as we strive for further improvements to the railways serving communities in the North-east of Scotland.

As you know as a supporter of the Campaign for North East Rail during the Holyrood election campaign, we are a grassroots-led group campaigning for reinstatement of railways in Aberdeenshire. We work in close conjunction with the region's business community, via Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, who are co-signatories to this letter.

Ahead of the Scottish Parliament election we called on all candidates from the North-east to back our three priorities for change, namely:

1. Begin building Buchan Rail within this parliamentary session
2. Ensure Aberdeen to Central Belt upgrades are completed
3. Approve new stations for Cove Bay and Newtonhill

We welcomed your backing of the above as the SNP candidate for Aberdeen Deeside and North Kincardine and even more pleased to see your appointment to the relevant portfolio which will enable you to convert the ambition of these three priorities into reality.

In addition, we were especially pleased to see the commitment to continue working with us to advance a reinstated railway from Aberdeen to Fraserburgh, Peterhead and Ellon included within the SNP manifesto. This combined personal and party endorsement for our aims gives us much hope for the future that we can realise real progress on the project working in close partnership with the new Scottish Government.

While we realise that commencing work on Buchan Rail within this parliamentary session may be an ambitious objective, we are not beginning from a standing start. Under the last Scottish Government, and thanks to the Just Transition Fund, we were able to deliver the Buchan Sustainable Transport Study. This took the form of two excellent reports being produced by AECOM and Stantec, submitted to the Scottish Government in June 2024, which laid the evidential foundations for extending the East Coast Line north of Aberdeen to Ellon and on to Peterhead and Fraserburgh. This work comprises two thirds of the underpinning analysis required to complete an Outline Business Case for Buchan Rail.

Additional work is now being undertaken by NESTRANS to provide additional evidence on the freight and supply chain opportunity of Buchan rail and to better understand place-based connectivity across the region. This should, in turn, provide the necessary confidence for all partners to move towards the Detailed Options Appraisal stage of Buchan Rail, for which we would be looking for further Scottish Government support.

We hope to keep in close contact with you and your officials as work continues to ready Buchan Rail for its next steps towards delivery and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to provide an introduction and update on the campaign.

Thank you again for your support for the Campaign for North East Rail and our best wishes as you drive forward the capital investment required to transform Scotland's railways for the better in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Jack', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jordan Jack
General Secretary
Campaign for North East Rail

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Borthwick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive
Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce