



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**



27 March 2026

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

We wished to take the opportunity to write to you personally following the dissolution of Parliament earlier this week and ahead of the forthcoming election campaign. It was with genuine sadness that we, along with fellow campaigners, learned of your decision not to stand for a further term in May.

On behalf of Campaign for North East Rail and Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, we extend our sincere thanks for all that you have done to support and engage with our campaign during your tenure as Cabinet Secretary for Transport. We are particularly grateful for the careful consideration you afforded our proposals at each stage of the study process, and for your consistent recognition of the merits of the railway we are seeking to deliver - often in circumstances where others were less persuaded.

We firmly believe that reconnecting Buchan to the rail network will be instrumental in unlocking the full potential of Scotland's Just Transition. In addition, new stations at Cove Bay and Newtonhill would serve their communities in much the same way as the new station at Winchburgh will serve yours, while also strengthening the impact of Aberdeen's Energy Transition Zone, currently under development near the proposed site. Together with improved intercity connectivity, these measures would help position the North-east as a key driver of a thriving Scottish economy.

We look forward to engaging constructively with your successor as Cabinet Secretary and hope to build on the positive relationship we have enjoyed during your time in office. If the opportunity arises, we would be grateful if you might share your experience of our campaign with them, to ensure they are fully apprised of the case we will continue to advance.

May we once again thank you for your support and engagement. We wish you a fulfilling and happy retirement from frontline politics, and every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Jordan Jack
General Secretary
Campaign for North East Rail

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive
Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce