

31 January 2011

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Dear Ms Melrose

Cycle Lockers at Railway Stations

Thank you for your letter of 27 January concerning the removal of cycle lockers at rail stations in the West Dunbartonshire Council area where you requested information on the background to the decision.

I have attached a copy a Committee Report submitted to SPT's Audit & Standards Committee on 19 September 2008 which provides background on the decision to remove the SPT lockers from stations in the Strathclyde rail network. As the report sets out, First ScotRail had been advised by Transec, the security agency, that the cycle lockers do not meet security requirements and it would be necessary to replace or remove them. A priority was the removal of cycle lockers from larger rail stations, which is now complete. However, the advice from Transec means that all SPT cycle lockers will require to be removed to comply with security guidance.

In addition to security compliance issues, the report made clear that there had been a low take up of cycle lockers with only around a third in use at any one time. Coupled with the high costs associated with cycle locker maintenance, including the cost of removing graffiti and repairing acts of vandalism, the costs of the cycle locker scheme outweigh the revenue.

SPT discussed the issue of cycle lockers with First ScotRail who have agreed to fund the costs of removing the non-compliant lockers and, where cycle racks are not currently available at stations, to provide racks, including a number with shelters.

Responsibility to provide cycle facilities at rail stations rests with First ScotRail as part of the rail franchise. Currently, in the West Dunbartonshire area there are cycle lockers at Dalmuir, Dumbarton Central and Balloch stations. Of these, only one locker at Dalmuir is currently in use.

I note your request for a moratorium on the programme of cycle locker removal but as stated, SPT must comply with Transec guidance. However, SPT will continue to review opportunities to work with ScotRail, Transport Scotland and our member Councils to improve cycle facilities at railway stations and we would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss future opportunities.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Kiloh
Head of Transport Planning

Enc SPT Audit & Standards Committee Report 19 September 2008