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Our ref :
Rolling Stock
Leasing market
investigation

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Government response to the Competition Commission report, “Rolling Stock Leasing Market Investigation”

I would like to thank you for this report which has significant consequence and to acknowledge both the detailed consideration which the Commission has given to the oral and written evidence presented by my officials and for the positive support from your officials in explaining the processes to be followed.

As rail franchising policy is a matter devolved to Scottish Ministers I am responding on behalf of the Scottish Government. I am therefore enclosing for your information a copy of the Scottish Government response setting out how we intend to proceed with the CC's recommendations in the report, “Rolling Stock Leasing Market Investigation”.

The Scottish Government sees a need to ensure that rail travel is economically and environmentally sustainable and therefore welcomes the Commission's finding that there are problems in the rolling stock leasing market which are having an adverse effect on competition.

The Commission has suggested that changes to the franchising system would foster competition in the market, and recommends that the Scottish Ministers and other franchising authorities “make changes to the franchise system, wherever consistent with their functions and objectives.” The Scottish Government welcomes this and the acknowledgement that in considering such changes, Transport Scotland would have to take account of the range of issues which impact upon the delivery of Scottish Government policies and priorities.

Stewart Stevenson