

**Head of Development &  
Regulatory Services**  
Steve Field

County Buildings  
Linlithgow  
West Lothian  
EH49 7EZ

Tel: 01506 775267  
Fax: 01506 775265

Our Ref:

Direct Dial No: 01506 775282

Email: [roy.mitchell@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:roy.mitchell@westlothian.gov.uk)

February 2nd 2004

Mr Iain Gardiner  
Scottish Executive  
Transport Scotland Consultation  
Victoria Quay  
EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

### **Regulation Of Utility Company Roadworks**

Dear Mr Gardiner

Thank you for giving ATCO to comment on the above proposals.

ATCO wishes to promote improved public transport and considers reliability to be a key factor in making bus and rail services attractive. Roadworks may well be unavoidable but it is essential that steps are taken to minimise delays to bus users and for adequate notice to be given to bus operators and passengers .

It is therefore essential that when roadworks are planned provision is made for bus services to operate as near to its normal route as practical - even if this results in bus only access being provided and other vehicles are having to be diverted . If a diversion is needed causing longer journeys or the provision of shuttle buses then the full additional costs must be met - including revenue loss caused by the work, which, it is likely, would reduce peak hour disruption as this would be the most expensive to cover.

It is likely this could only be achieved , however, with new primary legislation and we would recommend full recompense for costs incurred by diversion and priority for public transport .

Yours sincerely

Roy Mitchell  
Chair, ATCO Buses Sub Group

Transport