

16.08.06

Dear Sir/Madam,

ack. 22/8

I would like to express my support for the tolls on both the Fourth Road Bridge and Tay Bridge to be abolished. As a trader in Scotland I already incur higher delivery charges from English suppliers than my English counterparts, and trading in Dundee means that they have to pay two sets of toll before I can get my goods, a charge that is then passed on to me. As a small business owner I feel that there is already very little done to help promote, or even sustain, small businesses in Scotland and these tolls do nothing but hamper the flow of trade and traffic. At a business level it is increasingly difficult to compete with the high street multi-nationals without having to add on the extra cost for over priced delivery charges.

Speaking as someone who resides in Fife, I also feel that these tolls do nothing to aid the flow of traffic out of the city, especially in the evenings. Tail-backs along Dock Street, Riverside Drive and back along the Marketgait dual carriage way are not uncommon sights almost any night of the week now. How is Dundee supposed to attract shoppers, commuters or new businesses to the city with this constant gridlock? With the new standards of pollution and emissions that have been set by the Parliament in this greener age, how can these tolls be allowed to stay when they actively promote the worst kind of car emissions? As for moving the problem into Fife's backyard, that will not solve the problem, but merely move it off Dundee's books at an unnecessary expense. Hardly a smart or viable solution. Dundee needs to be able to attract better shops than the collection of second hand, charity or cheap shops it does at present, and with train fares already ridiculously high, why is the visiting tourist going to come back to

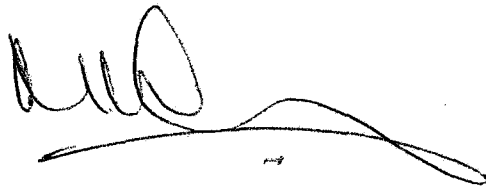
Scotland when they can stay in England and pay practically no tolls at all? The first thing visitors have to do to travel north is pay a toll, coupled with the sky high petrol prices, a disjointed, irregular infrastructure and extortionate train fares and over priced visitor attractions (£10 for Edinburgh Castle!) why would they want to come back when they can visit France for example, the most visited country in the world, at a fraction of the price? With all these little extras we are pricing ourselves out of the competitive market place.

The Tay Bridge must have been paid off by now. The fact that Dundee's corrupt councillors botched the contract years ago in favour of cheaper materials is not our fault or responsibility, but we are being made to pay for it through the nose year in, year out. It's time the Council took ownership of this problem and swallowed its pride and actually helped for a change, instead of looking for ways to make money off the commuting public to pay for it's mistake. Perhaps the person, or party, responsible is no longer in office, but in taking up any new post or office there is usually something that has to be written off and put down to experience. This is just such a case.

There can be no valid reason for keeping these toll booths in operation any further. As far as I can make out it only seems to be people who don't use them or have to pay for them that want to keep them.

I look forward to the successful conclusion of this issue in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M Wilson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line underneath.

Miss M Wilson
Proprietor