



TEXT SIZE

Petition aims to stop rail line being privatised

Friday 18 October 2013

CAMPAIGNERS and rail union chiefs are petitioning to keep a key rail line in public hands.

More than 23,000 passengers have signed the petition to stop the East Coast line between Scotland and London being re-privatised, which is being handed to shadow rail minister Lillian Greenwood and Green Party MP Caroline Lucas today.

The line has been in the public sector since 2009 but is due to go back into private ownership in early 2015.

More than 60 MPs from Labour, the Liberal Democrats, Green and Scottish National (SNP) parties have signed an early day motion calling on the Government not to re-privatise the line

The campaign is supported by RMT union general secretary Bob Crow and TSSA union general secretary Manuel Cortes. They argue a publicly run East Coast is better value for money than a line operated in the private sector.

Campaigners highlighted figures out last week, that show East Coast paid £208 million in premium and dividend payments to the Treasury in 2012/13. Its turnover rose 4.2% and it carried more than 19 million passengers, up 1% on the previous year.

They also point out that figures from the Office of Rail Regulation show East Coast received the lowest public subsidy of any rail operator by a big margin.

Ms Greenwood said: "East Coast has gone from strength to strength. Passenger satisfaction is at record levels, all profits have been reinvested and £600m returned to the taxpayer.

"It makes no sense to waste public money and government time on selling off East Coast."

[NEXT: Island wind turbine 'to boost community' »](#)

Commenting & Moderation

We moderate all comments on HeraldScotland on either a pre-moderated or post-moderated basis. If you're a relatively new user then your comments will be reviewed before publication and if we know you well and trust you then your comments will be subject to moderation only if other users or the moderators believe you've broken the rules, which are [available here](#).

Moderation is undertaken full-time 9am-6pm on weekdays, and on a part-time basis outwith those hours. Please be patient if your posts are not approved instantly.

MOST READ

- ▶ Still Game stars linked with return to show's stage roots
- ▶ Spiers on Sport: Stockbridge should go now after Mather's demise
- ▶ The Easdale brothers may yet have their say on the appointment of Dave King
- ▶ Rangers chiefs are urged to resign after court defeat
- ▶ Mather quits as Rangers chief executive
- ▶ Union: Ineos is holding Scotland to ransom by shutting Grangemouth
- ▶ Dave King on Rangers board return: I have unique status of credibility
- ▶ New board must take their seats first before Rangers can be comfortable
- ▶ Former Rangers director Paul Murray: I rejected offer to ditch McColl in exchange for board seat
- ▶ Andy Murray OBE, and a debutant Prince Wills with dodgy handwriting

MOST COMMENTED

- Calls for probe into creationist physics teacher
- Record number of 2014 poll voters are undecided
- Salmond says trust is key to Yes vote victory
- EU leaders are downplaying iScotland's right to membership, says top German adviser
- Scottish Government denies that Salmond will 'pick fight' with PM
- Why the Saltire makes me cringe
- Union call off Grangemouth strike 'to protect national asset'
- Flu vaccine scheme halted over fears of Muslim parents
- Lennon: 'I don't need to apologise to Neymar or justify my defence of my captain'
- Biggest impact is still to be felt from cuts in day-to-day spending



0 comments

★ 0



Leave a message...

Oldest ▾ Community

Share

No one has commented yet.

[Subscribe](#) [Add Disqus to your site](#)

heraldscotland

© Copyright 2013
Herald & Times Group
All rights reserved

Our News Services

Mobile
Apps and Kindle
Newspaper
Digital Editions
Back Issues
Online Archive
Email, Twitter, RSS
Syndication

Our Advertising Services

Family Notices
Book Your Newspaper
Ad online
Contact the Sales Team
View Newspaper Ads
Commercial Features

Our Personal Services

Help, Feedback &
Contact
Dating
Travel Services
Photo Sales
Crosswords & Sudoku

Our Colleagues

Evening Times
s1
The Scottish Farmer
Scottish Horse
Newsquest Media Group
Scottish Newspaper
Printers

About Us

Herald & Times Group
Terms & Conditions
Privacy Policy
How We Use Cookies
Employment