

Chief Executive
Mr Gordon MacLennan
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
131 St Vincent Street
Glasgow
G2 5JF

6th August 2019

Dear Gordon,

The Glasgow University Students' Representative Council: Cancellation of City Bus 15 Milngavie/City Centre Service

I write to you regarding the announcement that Glasgow City Bus has decided to withdraw the Number 15 Milngavie to City Centre bus service.

I understand that the current regulations state that only part of the previous route between Milngavie and Anniesland will be put up for tender as part of the selection process for a new operator, in line with subsidy that the SPT offers for this route.

Our student feedback is clear that the full removal of this service without an equivalent replacement would severely impact the lives of several hundreds of students that travel to and from Garscube, Gilmorehill and the Dental School.

We believe that the impact of the removal of this service, especially in reference to students, the community and the interactions between the university and the local area will be significant as a result. This service is absolutely vital for many people and is the most important transport link through these areas. A partial replacement of this service between Milngavie and Anniesland would leave students with no direct public transport link between our major centres of activity, and would thus leave students in the lurch. We urge you to consider as a minimum that a replacement service must replicate the full extent of the previous No 15 service.

There is a chance that home students may be abandoned by the lack of transport route if this service is not renewed in its entirety, which would be a shame given there are a high number of students that travel from home to take part in higher education study.

From our feedback part of the reason for lower usage in the past came due to the timings of the bus service, and its reliability, such as the service not catering to students and staff travelling early in the morning – forcing people to try and find alternative methods of transport when the original timeline of the bus service became distrusted. This service would be used extensively if reliability could be ensured, and if the service was consistent, reflecting the published timetables. This includes

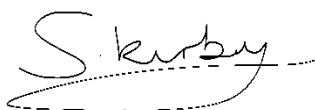
ensuring the service runs more frequently, and at more appropriate times in the morning and evenings, around normal working hours.

Additionally, alternative ways of engaging and encouraging students (and staff alike) would encourage heightened levels of usage, in a way that may make the service more commercially viable for the next operator – but this can only be achieved if the route is to be extended to the aforementioned areas, considering that these linkages were one of the main reasons to use the bus service in the first place.

As an organisation that represents the 28000+ students at the University of Glasgow, we believe is in the utmost interest of students, the university and the local community that this service continues to service these areas as a priority in the interests of the public and through the council's commitment to serve the City of Glasgow.

The University offers a lot to the community and to the West End, and to lose simple transport linkages such as this would severely impact the potential of the university and the accessibility of higher education to students.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Kirby". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Scott Kirby

President, Glasgow University Students' Representative Council

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The University of Glasgow Students' Representative Council, charity number SC006970