



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Amanda Croft
Interim Chief Executive
Forth Valley NHS (Chief Executive Office)

Date : 26 June 2024
Our Ref: KB3259



Keith Brown MSP

Dear Amanda,

Re: NHS Forth Valley Bus Services

As MSP for Clackmannanshire and Dunblane I am contacting you following a recent meeting with representatives of Muckhart Community Council (MCC) and Drew Smart from Glenfarg Community Transport (GCT).

Since early 2022, Muckhart residents without their own transport have had to plan well ahead and make alternative, often costly, arrangements to access essential services, including healthcare because there was no bus service. With a population which includes many older residents as well as young families and school children, this has proved to be quite an obstacle. A recent survey carried out by MCC found that there were residents who were considering moving from the village because of the lack of public transport links, with one family having already taken this step. The population of Muckhart is also expanding with the building of 50 family homes. This increases the housing stock by 50% and the community fears this will put considerable pressure on the limited services available, leading to increased vehicle usage.

It has been some time since the H2 service stopped serving Muckhart but the need for access to healthcare has not changed and MCC feel that it is incumbent upon NHS Forth Valley Health Board to make sure that patients are not cut off from health services. Particularly as the MCC understand that the premise of the Forth Valley Hospital build was that it should be a hospital for all villages and towns in the region. MCC say that as things stand, there is no public transport which would allow them to get to Dollar Health Centre, let alone Forth Valley Royal Hospital. MCC and GCT have been investigating ways that they could arrange a link to the H2 service from Dollar. They say that the main obstacle to this seems to be funding and a lack of engagement from organisations who could facilitate this link. They would like to know what NHS Forth Valley might consider to assist this link.

I would be grateful if you would please look into this matter and consider what might be done to assist the work of Muckhart Community Council in ensuring that their residents do not suffer from a lack of public transport.



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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Brown MSP
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane