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Andrew

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**SCOTTISH TRANSPORT STUDIES GROUP COMMITTEE**

Gordon Hill circulated amongst the committee your letter of resignation. Firstly I would like to thank you for serving on the committee. STSG depends on voluntary inputs from all its members across Scottish transport, and I hope that your involvement in STSG has been helpful to you in your work.

I am extremely surprised that you think that there is a possibility that STSG might “.....commission and publish research that could be construed as being politically motivated....” and that you “.....cannot be associated with an organisation which might deliberately set out to embarrass the government”. I personally would have no involvement with STSG if I thought there was any bias in its activities from any political, commercial or other perspective. Since receiving your letter many other committee members from across the industry have expressed a similar sentiment.

I note that you think your resignation might “..allow the STSG free reign to explore whatever research area it sees fit...” I am not aware of any circumstance in the past where I have allowed your desire to promote the interests of Transport Scotland to interfere with independent debate. Given that the entire rationale for STSG is to be independent, we want as many stakeholders in Scottish transport to participate as feel able to do so.

STSG will therefore continue to welcome Transport Scotland staff to events and written articles from Transport Scotland for STSG publications. If you find you disagree with something another stakeholder has said I would particularly welcome your inputs, since it is only through informed debate that we can all move forward.

Thanks again for your inputs to STSG.

Yours sincerely,



**Derek Halden**  
**Chair**