
From: Richard Jeffrey [Richard.Jeffrey@tie.ltd.uk]
Sent: 21 January 2010 09:24
To: Tom Aitchison; Donald McGougan; Dave Anderson
Cc: Alan Coyle; david_mackay [REDACTED]
Subject: briefing to the Minister (Private and Confidential and FOISA Exempt)

Dear all,

As you may be aware I am briefing Stewart Stevenson on Monday. I believe you will also be aware from discussions at the IPG yesterday that the project is at a critical stage, with an important report due to the TPB on 10th March.

Whilst I have kept the CEC party leaders up to speed, I have not updated them since the last TPB, which triggered this current critical phase. Of course there were councillors at the TPB, and I will not be saying anything to the Minister that was not discussed there, but I intend to give the Minister a full and up to date briefing. Therefore the risk arises, because of the briefings being slightly 'out of sync', that different people have slightly different information. I would like your advice as to what to do here.

You could brief those you think need to be briefed following the IPG
I could brief people on a 1:1 basis over the next couple of days
We could arrange a special leaders briefing
We could wait for the next planned leaders briefing.

Any views

Regards

Richard
Richard Jeffrey
Chief Executive

tie Limited
Citypoint
65 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh EH12 5HD

Direct line: 0131 [REDACTED]
Fax: 0131 622 8301
Email: Richard.Jeffrey@tie.ltd.uk

www.edinburghtrams.com
www.tie.ltd

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