

Response ID ANON-PA1N-7G36-Q

Submitted on 2015-08-03 12:39:33.305053

Evidence

Questions about you: In order for the evidence to be analysed and taken forward by the Inquiry we will need some further information about you and / or your organisation. Please note that all evidence submitted to the Inquiry may be published at any point during the Inquiry or when the Inquiry Report is issued. If you are responding as an organisation your full details will be published. If you are responding as an individual your name will be published, but your address will only be published if the Inquiry considers this to be relevant to the evidence submitted.

Organisation Name (if applicable):

Steedman & Company Ltd

Surname:

Steedman

Forename:

Richard

Postal Address:

[REDACTED]

Edinburgh

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding as an organisation or an individual?

Organisation

Does your evidence relate to a particular period of time?

No

If yes, what period?:

Does your evidence relate to a particular event or activity?

Yes

If yes, please explain what the event / activity was.:

As a director of an medium sized accountancy practice, dealing with some 2000 businesses I have been staggered by the behaviour of Edinburgh Councillors in

the conduct of this whole fiasco and in particular the negative effect on small and medium sized businesses both throughout the construction process and since.

In the areas most badly affected Haymarket and Leith Walk I have spoken to up to 20 business owners whose accounts show clearly the negative impact on

them. As well as tangible evidence in the form of accounting data there is the future loss of business felt by the likes of hairdressers, flower shops, pubs and

restaurants.

Clients sickened, both financially and morally by the whole event (in one case bankrupted) and who have asked me to quote their names include:

1.The Mercat Grill, 28 West Maitland St EH12 5DX - Owmer Graham Blakie [REDACTED]

Graham had invested a large sum of money and employed up to 40 staff at one point only to watch his business decline due to the lengthy closure of the street at

Haymarket where his previously thriving business was located. Graham eventually went bankrupt.

2.The Indian Cavalry Club, 22 Coates Crescent EH3 7AF - Owner Shahid Chowdhury.0131 [REDACTED]

Shahid is still in business but went through a very difficult time which is reflected in his accounts.

3. Helen Deans [REDACTED] Leith Walk [REDACTED] 0131 [REDACTED]

Helen suffered long term loss of business due to the closure of the road for long periods right outside her premises. She maintains that in her type of business

many long standing clients who would have remained loyal to her were forced to go elsewhere and have not returned. This must surely be true of dozens of

businesses affected by the road closures and the paltry sum of £4,000 paid out in compensation went nowhere near to her loss of income.

4. Easy Tan, 74-176 Leith Walk, EH6 5EA-Owner Darrel [REDACTED]

A similar tale to 3. above with many long term customers going elsewhere.

These are four businesses who have been adversely affected and many more who we deal with have been asked by our Directors to submit evidence to you.

Whether they do so is a matter of conjecture as unfortunately a lot of people are not aware of it taking place.

We are particularly interested in:• How you found out about what was happening, and how informed you were throughout the project• What

did you think would happen• What actually happened• What were the effects if any, on you (or your organisation) at the time of the project•

What if any, were the on-going or longer-term effects on you (or your organisation). Please write your evidence here.

We are particularly interested in:

I found out about the project like many other people some years before it actually commenced and the information on the arguments for and against were I feel

well considered and reported by the Edinburgh Evening news who I believe were rightly against it for a number of reasons.

I thought right from the outset that it was a very bad idea for two main reasons :

The original cost projected and the fact that Edinburgh already had an award winning bus service that fully served all areas of the city and also the airport.

Do you have any documents which you think it would be useful for the Inquiry to see?

Yes

Details of documents:

Clients documents to do with business intereuption which as of today I have not had time to gather together

Upload documents:

No file was uploaded

Are you content for the Edinburgh Tram Inquiry team to contact you again in relation to this evidence?*

Yes