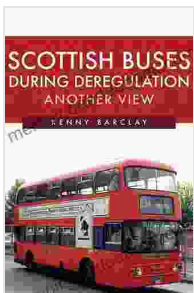


Scottish Buses During Deregulation: Another View

The deregulation of the Scottish bus industry in 1986 was a major event in the history of public transport in Scotland. It brought about a number of significant changes to the way that bus services were operated, and it had a profound impact on competition, fares, and service levels.



Scottish Buses During Deregulation: Another View

by Barry Hollembeak

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In this article, we will take a detailed look at the deregulation of the Scottish bus industry. We will examine the 經緯 of deregulation, and we will assess its impact on the industry and on the traveling public.

The History of Bus Deregulation in Scotland

The deregulation of the Scottish bus industry was part of a wider program of deregulation of the bus industry in the United Kingdom. The Thatcher government believed that deregulation would lead to increased

competition, which would in turn lead to lower fares and better service levels.

The Transport Act 1985 paved the way for the deregulation of the bus industry in Scotland. The Act abolished the National Bus Company, which had previously been responsible for operating bus services in Scotland. It also removed the requirement for bus operators to obtain a license from the Traffic Commissioner.

The deregulation of the Scottish bus industry came into effect on 27 October 1986. On that date, any operator was free to run bus services on any route, without the need for a license.

The Impact of Deregulation on the Scottish Bus Industry

The deregulation of the Scottish bus industry had a profound impact on the industry. In the years immediately following deregulation, there was a significant increase in competition, as new operators entered the market. This led to a decrease in fares, and an increase in service levels.

However, deregulation also had some negative consequences. Some bus operators were unable to compete in the deregulated market, and they were forced to close down. This led to a reduction in the number of bus services in some areas.

In addition, deregulation led to a decline in the quality of some bus services. Some operators cut corners in order to reduce costs, and this led to a decrease in the safety and reliability of bus services.

The Future of the Scottish Bus Industry

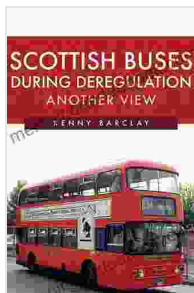
The future of the Scottish bus industry is uncertain. The industry is facing a number of challenges, including rising costs, declining passenger numbers, and increased competition from other modes of transport.

However, the Scottish government is committed to supporting the bus industry. In 2022, the government announced a £500 million investment in the bus industry. This investment will be used to improve bus services, reduce fares, and make buses more accessible.

The Scottish bus industry has a long and proud history. The industry has faced a number of challenges over the years, but it has always managed to adapt and survive. The future of the industry is uncertain, but there is reason to be optimistic. With the support of the Scottish government, the bus industry can continue to play a vital role in the Scottish economy and society.

The deregulation of the Scottish bus industry was a major event in the history of public transport in Scotland. It brought about a number of significant changes to the way that bus services were operated, and it had a profound impact on competition, fares, and service levels.

The future of the Scottish bus industry is uncertain. However, the Scottish government is committed to supporting the industry, and there is reason to be optimistic about the future of the industry.



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