

The Robert Gordon University – The Centre for Transport Policy

Prof David Begg (Director), Dr David Gray and Dr Jillian Anable

(Schoolhill, Aberdeen, AB10 1FR)

Tel: +44 (0)1224 263136; Fax: +44 (0)1224 263129

e-mail: j.anable@rgu.ac.uk

website: www.abs.ac.uk/cftp

INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Transport Policy (CFTP), situated in the Aberdeen Business School at The Robert Gordon University, was created in 1998 under the Directorship of Professor David Begg. Its aim is to analyse transport problems, recommend solutions and improve understanding of transport related issues. The Centre has established a strong reputation in areas such as congestion charging, rural transport and public attitudes to car dependence and mobility. The Research section also specialises in providing advice to transport policy makers, working alongside all levels of government and the private sector building the knowledge base and disseminating best practice through a range of media including a Policy Paper Series. As well as implicit focus on transport policy, the Centre's research also extends into a number of other disciplines including local and national governance and the political process, the relationship between the public and private sector, rural policy, behavioural change and the relationship between transport policy and the environment. The Centre's conference section runs an extensive programme of conferences throughout the year. The Centre currently has no undergraduate, postgraduate or PhD research students, but has plans to develop an MSc course and attract research students in the near future.

Staff

Professor David Begg is Director of CFTP. He is also Chairman of the Commission for Integrated Transport (CfIT) and a non-Executive Director for the Strategic Rail Authority, a Board Member of Transport for London, Director of the Portobello Partnership, and non-Executive Director at the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive.

David Gray is a Reader at the Centre, specialising in rural transport policy. Since joining the Centre in 1999, he has carried out research in the following areas: achieving growth in the UK bus industry, congestion charging, Scottish transport policy following devolution, commercial school bus services, and public attitudes towards transport improvements in the North East of Scotland. David is also editor of the Centre's Policy Paper Series.

Jillian Anable joined the centre in November 2003 and brought with her expertise on leisure travel; public attitudes to car use and transport policy; 'soft factors' and the behavioural and psychological aspects of transport.

Professor George Hazel (Managing Director Maclean Hazel and former Director of Economic Development, Edinburgh City Council) is a visiting professor and Brian Cox (Former Director of UK Bus, Stagecoach Plc) is an Honorary Research Fellow.

Claire Gray is the conference events manager and is assisted by a team of three other events coordinators.

Sponsorship

The Centre benefits from Core Sponsorship from First plc.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Overall, 2003 was a year of continued growth for the Centre. Dr David Gray (the only full time researcher at the Centre until Dr Jillian Anable's appointment late in the year), carried out research into the relationship between transport and environmental policy, vehicle emissions and managing demand for road use. In addition, a research project entitled 'Evaluating the provision of bus information through SMS texting' (for First plc) was completed.

Dr Jillian Anable brought with her to the Centre research for the Department for Transport (Grant Holder: Prof Phil Goodwin, University College London) on 'The Influence of Soft Factors on Travel Demand'. This project collated and built upon previous evidence on 'soft factor interventions' including work place travel plans, car clubs, public transport information and marketing and teleworking. It reviewed current practice and experience at the local level in the UK and from some other countries, and came to a broad view about the prospects for these policy instruments in the UK. In addition, Jillian has continued to submit journal articles from her PhD completed in 2002 which applied psychological theory to the study of mode choice and leisure travel.

The Centre has an agreement with the North East Scotland Transport Partnership (NESTRANS) to provide research, information and policy advice to the partnership on an ongoing basis.

CONFERENCES

Conferences and events organised by the Centre Events Team in 2003:

Awards Schemes

National Transport Awards Scheme
Scottish Transport Awards Scheme
London transport Awards Scheme

Conferences and events

Road Safety – 15/01/03 - London
Transport and the Media – 28/01/03 - London
Congestion Charging in the Capital – 15/04/03 - London
Concessionary Fares for Bus Services in the UK – 6/05/03 - London
Is High Speed Rail the way forward for the UK? – 7/07/03

British Coach & Bus Industry: Marketing For Growth Conference – 25/9/03 – Birmingham
Scottish Transport Awards Dinner & Conference - 14 & 15/10 2003 – Glasgow
Franchising For Buses? - Thursday 20/11/03 – London

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Presentations in 2003 by David Begg as role of Director, The Centre for Transport Policy:

Road Safety – 15/01/03 - London
Transport and the Media – 28/01/03 - London
Congestion Charging in the Capital – 15/04/03 - London
Concessionary Fares for Bus Services in the UK – 6/05/03 - London
Is High Speed Rail the way forward for the UK? – 7/07/03
British Coach & Bus Industry: Marketing For Growth Conference – 25/9/03 – Birmingham
Scottish Transport Awards Dinner & Conference - 14 & 15/10 2003 – Glasgow
Franchising For Buses? - Thursday 20/11/03 – London

Developments under way in 2004/5

The Centre is currently undertaking a feasibility study in to the potential to develop a Masters programme within the Business School in Transport Policy and Management. Initially (from 2004), specialist transport module(s) will be incorporated within the Business and Finance and Marketing Master programmes already on offer within the department.

David Gray, with Aberdeen University, secured funding from the UK Rural Evidence Research Centre and will be undertaking a variety of pieces of research on rural travel issues.

Jillian Anable will be working with York City Council and South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to devise an innovative method of monitoring the effects of behavioural and attitude change resulting from workplace travel plan initiatives.

PUBLICATIONS 2003

ANABLE, J (2003) Identifying Travel Behaviour Segments Using Attitude Theory. Proc. of the 3rd Environmental Psychology in the UK Conference, Aberdeen, June 2003 (ISBN 1-90108-573-2), pp.110-126
BEGG, D. (2003) Foreword. In DOCHERTY, I. and SHAW, J. (eds), A New Deal for Transport? The UK's Struggle with the Sustainable Transport Agenda. Blackwell, Oxford
DOCHERTY, I. and BEGG, D. (2003) The future of strategic transport planning in Scotland: Rediscovering the city-regional approach. Scottish Affairs. No 45
GRAY, D. (2003) Providing bus information by SMS texting in Aberdeen: Report on focus group research. Report for First and Acis. March 2003