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**OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING**


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Andrew Cowe Esq  
 Chief Executive  
 North Lanarkshire Council  
 Civic Centre  
 Motherwell  
 ML1 1TW

Your ref

Our ref ME/154/96

Date 28 May 1996

Dear Sir

**PROPOSED ACQUISITION BY FIRSTBUS PLC OF SB HOLDINGS LIMITED**

As you will know, FirstBus plc has recently announced a recommended offer to acquire SB Holdings Limited, including the 20% shareholding in SBH which is currently held by Stagecoach Holdings plc. FirstBus subsidiaries include Midland Bluebird Ltd, Eastern Scottish Omnibuses Ltd (t/a SMT Buses), Lowland Omnibuses Ltd and Lothian Transit Ltd. SBH subsidiaries include Strathclyde Buses Ltd and Kelvin Central Buses Ltd.

The Office is considering whether this gives rise to a qualifying merger for the purposes of the Fair Trading Act 1973, and if so, whether it raises competition or other public interest concerns meriting reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

I am writing to invite any comments that you may have - if possible by not later than Friday 14 June please.

Yours faithfully

**MARTIN J GOULDEN**  
 Mergers Secretariat

