# Alexander Dennis consolidation puts 400 Scottish jobs and bus manufacturing future at risk



Alexander Dennis, a major UK bus manufacturer, has announced plans to consolidate its UK manufacturing operations into a single site in Scarborough, England, prompting fears for the future of bus production in Scotland and putting around 400 jobs at risk. The firm, which currently operates plants in Falkirk and Larbert, has entered a consultation process regarding the closure of these sites upon completion of existing contracts, a move that would end bus body manufacturing in Scotland.

This decision has had significant local repercussions, notably at Greenfold Systems Ltd in Dunfermline, a crucial supplier that manufactures parts for Alexander Dennis buses. Approximately half of Greenfold’s workforce of around 180 staff are involved in producing components for the buses. Workers there have been informed about potential redundancies, with up to 90 jobs at risk in Dunfermline alone. The building dedicated to bus parts production is one of three sites operated by Greenfold, the others being in Lochgelly and Chatham, England.

The announcement of potential closures has sparked strong reactions from political representatives and trade unions. Labour MP for Dunfermline and Dollar, Graeme Downie, criticised the situation as an example of wider economic mismanagement, saying the risk to these jobs highlights the “ripple effects” of inadequate government support for Scottish manufacturing. Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes pledged that the Scottish Government would “leave no stone unturned” to secure the futures of the workers involved, while Minister for Business and Employment Richard Lochhead underscored engagement with the company and efforts to assist through initiatives designed to respond to redundancy situations.

The Scottish Greens have called for a concerted government response to retain and retrain the at-risk workforce, emphasising the broader economic impact beyond direct job losses. Mark Ruskell MSP warned the closures could affect up to 1,600 more jobs indirectly in the surrounding Falkirk and Grangemouth areas. Unions have been equally vocal, with Unite general secretary Sharon Graham describing Alexander Dennis' plans as “devastating” and a serious economic blow to communities already grappling with industrial decline, notably following the closure of the Grangemouth oil refinery.

From the company’s perspective, the restructuring aims to reduce costs and boost efficiency by concentrating production at a single Scottish site. Alexander Dennis president and managing director Paul Davies said the closure was not a “done deal” and the company was still in consultation. He highlighted the need for consistent orders, estimating a requirement of 70 to 100 buses by the end of this year and around 300 to 400 next year to stabilise the business in Scotland. However, without these substantial orders or regulatory changes, the consolidation appears more likely.

Industry challenges compound the issue; Alexander Dennis previously expressed concerns over an “uneven playing field” regarding zero-emission bus funding, which it argues disproportionately benefits foreign competitors with lower labour costs. The company has called for tariffs on imported electric buses to protect domestic manufacturing jobs. This context illustrates ongoing difficulties for Scottish bus manufacturing within wider market and policy frameworks.

The Scottish Liberal Democrats have also urged the SNP government to engage proactively with Alexander Dennis to find a solution and revitalise support for Scottish manufacturing. Calls have been made for temporary measures such as furlough schemes to support workers while production stabilises. Meanwhile, local staff at the Falkirk site have described the atmosphere as “numbness” and devastation, reflecting deep concerns about the immediate economic and social impact.

With the consultation process underway, the final outcome remains uncertain, but the potential loss of hundreds of jobs and the end to bus manufacturing in Scotland underscore significant challenges for the sector, the workforce, and the local economies dependent on this industry.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[2]](https://www.alexander-dennis.com/alexander-dennis-announces-consultation-on-uk-manufacturing-strategy/), [[5]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/400-jobs-at-risk-in-deeply-worrying-move-to-end-scottish-bus-manufacturing-5172347)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[3]](https://greens.scot/news/government-must-retain-and-retrain-alexander-dennis-workers), [[4]](https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/business/unions-fury-at-devastating-relocation-announcement-by-camelon-bus-builder-5173253)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[3]](https://greens.scot/news/government-must-retain-and-retrain-alexander-dennis-workers), [[4]](https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/business/unions-fury-at-devastating-relocation-announcement-by-camelon-bus-builder-5173253), [[6]](https://news.stv.tv/east-central/alexander-dennis-staff-left-numb-after-400-jobs-put-at-risk-as-falkirk-site-to-shut-down)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[2]](https://www.alexander-dennis.com/alexander-dennis-announces-consultation-on-uk-manufacturing-strategy/), [[6]](https://news.stv.tv/east-central/alexander-dennis-staff-left-numb-after-400-jobs-put-at-risk-as-falkirk-site-to-shut-down)
* Paragraph 6 – [[7]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx292n5d4qlo), [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[5]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/400-jobs-at-risk-in-deeply-worrying-move-to-end-scottish-bus-manufacturing-5172347), [[3]](https://greens.scot/news/government-must-retain-and-retrain-alexander-dennis-workers)
* Paragraph 8 – [[6]](https://news.stv.tv/east-central/alexander-dennis-staff-left-numb-after-400-jobs-put-at-risk-as-falkirk-site-to-shut-down), [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328), [[5]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/400-jobs-at-risk-in-deeply-worrying-move-to-end-scottish-bus-manufacturing-5172347)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/alexander-dennis-bus-firm-pulls-35468328> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.alexander-dennis.com/alexander-dennis-announces-consultation-on-uk-manufacturing-strategy/> - On 11 June 2025, Alexander Dennis, a subsidiary of NFI Group Inc., announced a consultation on its UK manufacturing strategy. The proposal involves consolidating bus body manufacturing into a single site in Scarborough, England, leading to the closure of the Falkirk plant and suspension of production at the Larbert facility upon completion of current contracts. This restructuring aims to lower costs and increase efficiency but places up to 400 jobs at risk, representing approximately 22% of Alexander Dennis' workforce and 4% of NFI's global workforce.
3. <https://greens.scot/news/government-must-retain-and-retrain-alexander-dennis-workers> - The Scottish Greens have called on both the Scottish and UK governments to take immediate action to retain and retrain workers at Alexander Dennis' Falkirk and Larbert facilities, which are facing potential closure. Mark Ruskell MSP highlighted that the closure could put 400 direct jobs at risk, with up to 1,600 more indirectly affected in the wider Falkirk and Grangemouth area. He urged for a proper plan, community and trade union involvement, and significant investment to retain the skilled workforce and support Scotland's green economy.
4. <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/business/unions-fury-at-devastating-relocation-announcement-by-camelon-bus-builder-5173253> - Unite the union expressed strong opposition to Alexander Dennis' announcement of potential closure of its Falkirk and Larbert operations, which could result in up to 400 job losses. Sharon Graham, Unite general secretary, described the decision as devastating and a significant economic blow to local communities already affected by the closure of the Grangemouth oil refinery. The union emphasized the need for government intervention to protect jobs and communities.
5. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/transport/400-jobs-at-risk-in-deeply-worrying-move-to-end-scottish-bus-manufacturing-5172347> - Alexander Dennis has announced plans to end production at its Falkirk and Larbert facilities, potentially putting up to 400 jobs at risk. The company intends to centralize production in Scarborough, England, aiming to lower costs and increase efficiency. This move has been described as deeply worrying, with concerns about the impact on Scottish bus manufacturing and local communities. Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes stated that the Scottish Government would explore all options to retain manufacturing in Scotland.
6. <https://news.stv.tv/east-central/alexander-dennis-staff-left-numb-after-400-jobs-put-at-risk-as-falkirk-site-to-shut-down> - Staff at Alexander Dennis' Falkirk site have expressed feelings of 'numbness' and devastation following the announcement that up to 400 jobs are at risk due to the proposed closure of the facility. The company plans to consolidate its UK bus body manufacturing operations into a single site in Scarborough, England. Workers have called for efforts to save the plant and the jobs, with union representatives urging both the company and government ministers to secure the future of Alexander Dennis in Falkirk.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx292n5d4qlo> - In September 2024, Alexander Dennis announced that 160 Scottish jobs were at risk due to an 'uneven playing field' in the bus manufacturing sector. The company cited government zero-emission bus funding disproportionately benefiting foreign competitors with lower labour costs. Alexander Dennis called for higher import duties on electric buses to compete with these competitors and stated it would continue efforts to save and protect as many jobs as possible.