



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01575

Name of petitioner

Alex Scott MBE

Petition title

Accessible Rail Travel

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to take more steps to make the ScotRail fleet accessible to the visually impaired, including standardising buttons on ScotRail's fleet and providing high visibility clothing for its station workers.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have contacted the offices of Kenny MacAskill MSP and Dennis Robertson MSP. On 19 June 2015, I also spoke at a Community Union event sponsored by Jayne Baxter MSP at the Scottish Parliament.

In addition to working with my union Community Union on this issue, I have also raised it with the Scottish Trades Union Congress and the Scottish Council of Visual Impairment.

As accessible rail transport is an issue that crosses the border, I have also been campaigning in Westminster. Before the dissolution of the UK Parliament, I had a petition collecting signatures through the UK Government's E-Petitions system.

Petition background information

I am campaigning to make rail travel more accessible for blind and disabled people. I am concerned that, all the rail companies operating in the UK, e.g. Virgin, Arriva, National Express, ScotRail and others, have the buttons all in different positions. These inconsistencies do not just apply across different rail companies, but are also evident within ScotRail's own fleet.

Here's an example: in the toilets, buttons in the same position have different functions on different trains. In one train a button might open the door, but in another train the button will do something different. I personally know two people who were trapped in the toilet and required assistance to escape. Even more extreme, I know a gentleman that pressed the emergency button by mistake and stopped the whole train.

I am also concerned that any progress that might be being made to increase the accessibility of ScotRail services is being undermined by the fact that ScotRail station employees no longer wear high visibility clothing.

I ask that the Scottish Government does more to ensure that the ScotRail fleet is made

as accessible as possible, by standardising emergency and other buttons, using contrasting colours, and audible signals. This would help give blind and visually impaired people more independence and make travelling by rail more stress free. I would also like to see ScotRail employees wearing high visibility clothing, so that the visually impaired can find assistance when required. This should be a priority for all current and new stock.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01575>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

1

Closing date for collecting signatures online

24 / 08 / 2015

Comments to stimulate online discussion

These measures are socially inclusive and for the benefit of everyone.