



Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE1509](#)

Main Petitioner: Lee Wright

Subject: Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to improve the safety, frequency and standards of rail transportation between Aberdeen and Inverness.

Background

The Aberdeen-Inverness railway is approximately 108 miles (174 km) long, serving 10 intermediate stations. The railway is mostly single track with passing loops, which constrain the current timetable and future development opportunities.

This route mainly carries ScotRail passenger services and occasional freight traffic beyond the Raiths Farm/Kittybrewster Freight Terminal on the northern outskirts of Aberdeen, where most freight services from the south terminate.

ScotRail passenger journey times are presently in the range of two hours 12 minutes to two hours 28 minutes. ScotRail passenger services are provided by Class 158 diesel multiple units, which operate in multiples of two cars, have a maximum speed of 90mph and were built by BREL at Derby between 1989 and 1992.

Scottish Government Action

Transport Scotland, working with Network Rail, has developed a [long term plan](#) for the improvement of the Inverness-Aberdeen railway. Options currently under consideration are set out in the Network Rail map attached to this briefing.

The project aims to deliver:

- A two hour journey time
- An hourly service
- enhanced commuter services into Aberdeen and Inverness
- new stations at Kintore in Aberdeenshire and Dalcross, near Inverness airport.

The project, which is estimated to cost between £250 million and £500 million, will be delivered in phases. The whole project is due to be completed by

2030. Phase one of the scheme aims to deliver enhanced commuter services into Inverness and Aberdeen and new stations at Kintore and Dalcross by 2019.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not considered the improvement of the Inverness-Aberdeen railway.

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March 2014

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Transport Scotland/Network Rail Plans for upgrade of Aberdeen-Inverness Rail line by 2030

