

Tuesday, 1 December 2015

Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

T 020 7592 0500
E communications@angeltrains.co.uk
www.angeltrains.co.uk

Dear

Ms Robinson

Thank you for your letter dated 25 November.

I can confirm that trains leased to ScotRail from Angel Trains comply with all relevant regulations governing rail vehicle accessibility legislation, namely the standards set out in the UK Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 2010 (RVAR). Complying with access standards is an important focus for Angel Trains, so that by 1 January 2020 all of our trains are compliant as possible with the RVAR.

We understand the view of the Petitioner, Mr Alex Scott MBE, that accessibility for visually impaired passengers could be improved by the standardisation of buttons on the fleet of trains deployed by ScotRail. At present, the RVAR does not make it a requirement to standardise the position of buttons across the UK rail fleet in a way described by Mr Scott. To do so would represent a significant challenge to ScotRail and other Train Operating Companies (TOCs) as trains vary physically by design.

Furthermore, complete consistency would be practically impossible to achieve due to the fact that TOCs across the UK routinely alternate train vehicles, sometimes at short notice, which would require such a standardisation to be mandated UK wide, not just in Scotland. To standardise the placement of buttons across all rolling stock classes would represent a significant cost to the industry and ultimately customers, such as Transport Scotland, due to the re-engineering required and the time the trains and carriages would be out of service.

I hope this response provides Mr Scott and the Public Petitions Committee with the information necessary to take forward this petition. If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards.

Malcolm Brown
Chief Executive Officer