

## Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee

**Petition Number:** [PE1869](#)

**Main Petitioner:** Dillon Crawford

**Subject:** Make it law for all railway stations to have step free access

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce legislation that requires all railway stations to have step free access.

### Background

Scotland's mainline railway stations are owned by Network Rail, with the exception of Prestwick Airport station which is owned by the airport operators, currently Scottish Ministers. Network Rail is an arms-length public body of the UK Department for Transport. Network Rail directly manages Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Central stations, all other Network Rail owned stations in Scotland are currently managed by Abellio ScotRail.

The majority of Scotland's railway stations were built during the Victorian age, the oldest station still in use in Scotland (Broughty Ferry) opened in 1838. These stations were built with little thought for accessibility and before the invention or widespread use of lifts. Some stations were built in constrained locations where retrofitting lifts or wheelchair accessible ramps is logistically challenging.

### Scottish Government Action

All new railway stations opened in Scotland since the establishment of the Scottish Parliament have been built with step-free access, these are Alloa, Laurencekirk, Larkhall, Merryton,

Chatelherault, Blackridge, Caldercruix, Armadale, Conon Bridge, Shawfair, Eskbank, Newtongrange, Gorebridge, Stow, Galashiels, Tweedbank, Forres, Kintore and Robroyston.

Existing stations upgraded as part of Scottish Government funded electrification projects that now have step-free access include Stirling, Livingston South, West Calder, Addiewell, Fauldhouse and Cleland.

Confirmed new stations at Leven, Cameron Bridge, Reston and East Linton will be fully accessible. The Scottish Government is also considering accessibility improvements at Aviemore, Pitlochry, Kingussie, Nairn, Dunkeld & Birman, Shotts, Hartwood, Carstairs and at stations forming part of the Barrhead and East Kilbride line enhancement projects.

In addition to these Scottish Government funded improvements, the UK Government is supporting major accessibility improvements at Anniesland, Croy, Dumfries, Johnstone, Port Glasgow and Uddingston stations and minor improvements to Anderston station during the period 2019-2024, through the GB-wide [Access for All programme](#).

Equal opportunities legislation is largely reserved to the UK Parliament, including legislation governing railway station accessibility.

## Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not considered legislation on railway station accessibility, as this is a reserved matter.

## Key Organisations and relevant links

- **Network Rail:** Owner and operator of GB rail infrastructure, although day-to-day management of all but the largest stations is handled by rail franchise holders – Abellio ScotRail in Scotland.
- **Transport Scotland:** Responsible for setting Network Rail strategic direction in Scotland and specifying/funding Scottish rail enhancement projects.

- **Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland:** Considers issues around disabled people's travel needs and advises Scottish Ministers on these matters.
- **Transport Focus:** Rail passenger representative body.

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