

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 21 January 2026
2nd Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

PE2209: Make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles

Introduction

Petitioner Joanna Kerr

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles.

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2209>

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 14 November 2025.
2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.
3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.
4. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 50 signatures have been received on this petition.
5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered.
6. The Committee has received a submissions from the Scottish Government, which is set out in **Annexe C** of this paper.

Action

7. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Clerks to the Committee
January 2026

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2209: Make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles

Petitioner

Joanna Kerr

Date Lodged

14 November 2025

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles.

Background information

The Casey Audit defined a clear link between the use of taxis/private hire vehicles, gang rape and group based child sexual exploitation.

There is also a link in national drug running and child trafficking.

Charities involved in protecting women from sexual abuse have identified this mode of transport as a risk.

They have also carried out preliminary studies that suggest that CCTV offers increased protection in local communities.

We want the Government to pass legislation requiring all taxis and private hire vehicles to be fitted with operational CCTV to ensure the safety of both passengers and drivers.

Annexe B: SPICe briefing on PE2209



Brief overview of issues raised by the petition

Taxi and private hire car licensing in Scotland: Taxis and private hire cars are licensed under the provisions of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, as amended. The administration of the licensing regime is carried out by Scotland's 32 local authorities, in their role as licensing authorities.

Licensing authorities have broad discretion over the types of vehicles they can license for use as taxis or private hire cars, including the ability to set conditions on the type of onboard equipment that can be installed and how it can be used. This includes the ability to specify requirements relating to onboard CCTV cameras, e.g. [the City of Edinburgh Council](#) attach conditions to all Edinburgh taxi licenses requiring its approval before a CCTV system can be installed. The Council's licensing conditions specify technical requirements that must be met by any CCTV system for it to receive approval.

Paragraphs 5.13 to 5.20 of the Scottish Government's [Taxi and private hire car licensing: guidance - third edition](#), published in May 2023, provides advice to licensing authorities and taxi operators on the installation and use of onboard CCTV cameras.

The Casey Audit: Chapter 7 of the final report of the [National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#), referred to by the petitioners as "the Casey Audit" and published in December 2025, deals with issues around taxi licensing. The remit of this audit extended to England and Wales only. The taxi licensing chapter summary states:

- As a key part of the nighttime economy, taxis have historically been identified as a way children can be at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Local authorities issue taxi licences in line with statutory guidance issued by the government. Some go above and beyond this statutory guidance as a means of combating child sexual exploitation but they are being hindered by a lack of stringency in other local authorities, and legal loopholes which mean drivers can apply for a licence anywhere in the country.
- Proper safeguards in the licensing of taxis is as much about protecting the drivers as the passengers.
- The Department for Transport should close this loophole immediately and introduce more rigorous standards.

It goes on to highlight changes made to taxi licensing requirements adopted by Rotherham Borough Council following high profile investigations into child sexual exploitation in their area, including the “Introduction of taxi cameras which must be capable of capturing every passenger and driver from the chest upwards.”

It is worth noting that in Scotland it is an offence for a taxi or private hire car driver to ply for trade in an area for which they do not have a licence, although they can provide pre-booked trips that either start or end outside the area for which they are licensed – such as taking passengers to or from an airport located in a different licensing authority area.

Alan Rehfish
Senior Researcher
9 January 2025

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

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Annexe C: Written submission

Scottish Government written submission, 18 December 2025

PE2209/A: Make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles

Does the Scottish Government consider the specific ask of the petition to be practical or achievable?

Taxis and Private Hire Cars (PHCs) are licensed in Scotland under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 ("the 1982 Act"). While the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament has responsibility for this overarching legislation, the day to day administration of the licensing regime is devolved to independent licensing authorities through the 1982 Act powers – in effect the 32 Scottish local authorities.

All licensing authorities have wide discretion to determine appropriate licensing arrangements for vehicles within these areas according to local needs and circumstances and their own legal advice. This includes in relation to the installation of CCTV in vehicles as a requirement of licensing.

Under the 1982 Act powers, this is a matter more appropriately for individual independent licensing authorities to consider.

What, if any, action the Scottish Government is currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition and is any further action being considered that will achieve the ask of this petition?

All independent licensing authorities should actively promote and facilitate good links between the Taxi/PHC trade and the local police force, including active participation in any crime reduction initiatives.

In May 2023 the Scottish Government published updated best practice guidance for local licensing authorities and Taxi and PHC operators on the licensing of Taxis and PHCs and their drivers. I would refer the Committee to the information on 'security' at [Chapter 5 of the guidance](#). That chapter of the Guidance at paragraphs 5.13-5.20 contains information about the installation of CCTV in Taxi vehicles. This information was provided to inform decision-making by independent licensing authorities in this area.

Is there any further information the Scottish Government wish to bring to the Committee's attention, which would assist it in considering this petition?

The Committee will also be interested to know that earlier this year the Scottish Government convened a Task Force on Civic Licensing to review a range of existing licensing provisions of the 1982 Act. One of the licensing policy areas being looked at is the legislation in relation to general Taxi and PHC licensing. It is expected that a report setting out recommendations in relation to the 1982 Act, including in relation to Taxi/PHC licensing, will be presented to the Scottish Ministers by Spring 2026. While the focus of this group is not specifically CCTV, it may arise as part of their considerations.

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Criminal Law, Practice and Licensing Unit