

Mobility and Access Committee for
Scotland (MACS)
Area 2-D North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ



Patrick Harvie MSP
Convener
Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee (TICCC)
Room T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

26 January 2011

Dear Convener

MACS appearance at the TICC Committee - 11 January 2011

At our appearance before the TICC Committee on 11 January 2011, I undertook to provide the Committee with information which we did not have to hand at that time.

From reading the Official Report of the MACS appearance, I would like to take the opportunity to clarify one fundamental point on the status of MACS. MACS is a Ministerial Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body and although we are linked through the Secretariat and funding is provided by Transport Scotland, we are not, as such, part of the organisation. (Col 3586)

During the discussion on "Transport Scotland's Disability Discrimination Act: Good Practice Guide for Roads" (Col 3584), I mentioned our disappointment that so few authorities appeared to have taken up the opportunity of the training available on this issue and stated that, to our knowledge, only 4 had taken part. We have now ascertained that during November/December 2010, further personnel attended the training events and it is now estimated that 16 local authorities have taken part.

These are: Argyll and Bute Council; Clackmannanshire Council; East Dunbartonshire Council; East Renfrewshire Council; Edinburgh City Council; Falkirk Council; Fife Council; Glasgow Council; Inverclyde Council; Moray Council; North Lanarkshire Council; Scottish Borders Council; South Ayrshire Council; South Lanarkshire Council; Stirling Council and West Lothian Council.

Transport Scotland officials have informed us that up to three representatives from each LA were invited to take part in this initial training event, but often only one attended and it was felt that, in some instances, perhaps not the most appropriate person was in attendance. TS officials have indicated that any further training on this matter would be open to all LAs and would perhaps be targeted more specifically to the personnel who would benefit most from participation.

During the discussion on the issue of low level buses and accessible transport (Col.3587), we made reference to the timescales for this to be implemented in Scotland. I can now confirm that, in line with the rest of the UK, all single deck buses weighing up to 7.5 tonnes must be fully accessible from 1 January 2015. Single deck buses over 7.5 tonnes must be compliant by 1 January 2016 and double-decked buses by 1 January 2017. Coaches are required to be fully accessible by 1 January 2020.

Cathy Peattie, MSP asked if there was scope for MACS to set its own agenda and how it monitored the effectiveness of its work (Col. 3589). Although the Transport Minister can ask us to look at specific issues, our remit does allow MACS to define its own work programme and determine priorities based on issues which the Committee considers may be causing concern in relation to transport and accessibility or simply where we believe a change could be made for the better. Our Annual Report is intended to give an overview of the work which we have undertaken each year and our process of individual workstreams reporting back in through the main Committee, provides ongoing internal checks and balances on the direction and progress of individual items.

In relation to our concerns over aspects of the planned stopping places for the Edinburgh Trams (Col. 3599), I have ascertained that, following a presentation to MACS at the beginning of 2010, and subsequent correspondence between us, we have had no further communication with TIE since May of last year. Prompted by our discussion with the TICC Committee, MACS will give further consideration to the next steps we take regarding this issue at our next full Committee meeting.

MACS concerns regarding the Commonwealth Games provision for spectators' needs was a subject which we raised with the TICC Committee and I enclose a copy of a letter which we have sent to the 2014 Organising Committee highlighting these issues. I will ensure that we keep the TICCC informed of any developments in this area.

I hope that this information is helpful to the TICC Committee and we would be more than happy to provide any additional material which you might consider useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne MacLean". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.Handwritten initials "P.P." in black ink, positioned to the left of the typed name.

ANNE MacLEAN
Convener, MACS