



Advising Scottish Ministers
on Accessible Travel

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland



Annual Report 2018-2019





My name is Linda Bamford.

I am the Convener of the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS).



MACS writes a report every year about its work.

This report is for Mr Michael Matheson. He is the Scottish Government Minister responsible for Transport.



Last year our report had 13 recommendations on accessible transport.



We worked with disabled people who told us how to make transport better.



Disabled people want more time and money spent to make public transport better.

They want awareness campaigns that say transport should be accessible for everyone.



MACS wants to work with other organisations to make accessible travel better.

This fits with the disability rights saying “Nothing about us without us.”

MACS has been looking to see where we can make the most difference.



Our main work has been to:

- Get more people working on accessible travel.
- Doing this faster.



MACS met with Scottish Government Ministers to talk about how important accessibility is.



We want accessibility to be a main part of the Programme for Government.

This is the plan that sets out all the work the Government will do every year.



Recommendation 1: To make sure that accessibility is part of the Programme for Government to help make Scotland accessible.



MACS wants to thank Mr Matheson for letting us speak to other Ministers.

We look forward to working with Ministers in 2019/20.



I also want to say thank you to our staff who support MACS at all our meetings.



MACS members are all volunteers and I want to thank them for their time and hard work.

This report shows all the work the team has been doing.



MACS will keep working hard to make sure disabled people are involved in our future work.

1. What are the most important things we are working on?



In 2018/19 MACS worked hard to tell Scottish Government Ministers how important accessible transport is.

It helps disabled people to travel on their own, go out and meet people, get to work and get housing and health care.



When disabled people can access services it brings more money to Scotland.

This makes the country richer and fairer.



MACS wants disabled people to be at the centre of all transport plans.

People making decisions about transport must think about what disabled people want and need.



MACS wants all partners to talk to disabled people, so they can learn from them and find answers to the barriers they face.



MACS talked to Ministers and public organisations about Equality Impact Assessments.

These assessments help people see how decisions about transport services would affect disabled people.

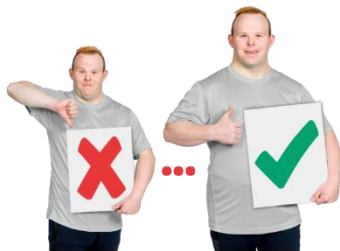


Not many people do Equality Impact Assessments.

MACS wants to meet councils to talk about why Equality Impact Assessments are good.



Recommendation 2: Councils must have accessible public transport.



Recommendation 3: Equality Impact Assessments must include the thoughts of disabled people before decisions about transport are made.



MACS said Community Transport is very important for disabled people, especially in the countryside.

MACS told the Department for Transport to think about how changing community transport will affect disabled people.



MACS has given feedback to the National Transport Strategy.

We want to make sure Transport Scotland understand why accessible transport and accessible streets are important.



MACS will answer the questions sent to it on the National Transport Strategy.



MACS works hard to make sure airports and planes are accessible for disabled people.



MACS visits airports to see if real life experience is the same as the airport's accessibility rating.



MACS wants disability awareness training to be given to transport staff so they can support disabled travellers.



Recommendation 4: To make sure transport providers have disability awareness training.

Recommendation 5: To help Transport Scotland have a national disability awareness training course.

2. What we did this year:



We agreed what are the most important things to do.

We had meetings with Transport Scotland and Government Ministers.

We made sure disabled people were included in transport plans.



Recommendation 6: To make sure changes to services or new services are planned with disabled people.



We had a development day in March 2019 about accessible travel.



We had information sessions and met staff from Government departments.



The Rural Economy Connectivity Committee agreed that Equality Impact Assessments should happen before any changes to services.



MACS shared our accessibility toolkits to make stations and terminals more accessible.



We are pleased that some ferry terminals now have Changing Places Toilets.



We worked with the Caledonian Sleeper train staff and they will make accessibility better.



We worked with the Transport Research Laboratory to have Edinburgh and Glasgow included in their good practice guides for inclusive mobility and tactile surfaces.



Recommendation 7: To advise the Department for Transport to update the Inclusive Mobility Guidance as soon as possible.

If there is a delay, MACS will ask Transport Scotland to write a Scottish version of the guide.



MACS will keep giving advice on inclusive street design, to make sure routes and roads are accessible.



We have asked the Department for Transport to look at their Public Service Vehicle Access Regulations before 2027.



This can help with problems like coaches in country areas not being accessible.



MACS believes that transport providers and disabled people must work together more so services have what disabled people need.



Recommendation 8: We want staff who work for transport providers to have accessibility and disability knowledge.



We had a meeting about Motability and if it gives value for money.

Disabled People's Organisations said what they thought and what they are worried about.



We gave a report of the meeting to Scottish Ministers.

3. What we will do next year:



MACS will focus on making transport:

- Available
- Accessible
- Affordable.

To do this, we will make sure accessibility is the most important thing in transport services.



Recommendation 9: Transport services should work with MACS to make sure policies and contracts include accessibility.



We will use development days to meet other partners and agree how to work together.



We have used the report 'A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People' to decide the 5 things we will work on.

They are:



1. Support services that are designed to have what disabled people want and need to travel for work, pleasure and doctors' appointments.



2. Disabled people can access education, work or volunteering.



3. Houses and transport are accessible.



4. Disabled people are always treated fairly and equally.



5. Disabled people can take part in all parts of life in Scotland.



MACS will work with Transport Scotland's Accessible Travel Team to deliver the Accessible Travel Framework.



Recommendation 10: MACS will give advice to Transport Scotland to help them do the work that is set out in the Accessible Travel Framework.

In 2019-2020, MACS will:



Work with partners in England and Northern Ireland to share learning.



Work on different Government projects, like the National Transport Strategy review.



Speak to organisations that work on smart travel technology to get disabled people involved in smart ticketing.



Work with ferries and airports to make them accessible.



Keep working on Inclusive Street Design.



Work to improve the Blue Badge system and Passenger Assistance on trains so it is one of the best in the UK.



MACS has asked Transport Scotland to host a discussion on the topic of ‘what is accessibility?’

Summary of Recommendations



1: To Scottish Ministers:

To make sure that accessibility is part of the Programme for Government to help make Scotland accessible.



2: To Scottish Ministers, Transport providers and accessibility leads:

Councils must have accessible public transport.



3: To Scottish Ministers, Transport Scotland, and accessibility leads:

Equality Impact Assessments must include the thoughts of disabled people before decisions about transport are made.



4: To Councils, Transport Providers and Operators:

To make sure transport providers have disability awareness training.



5: To Transport Scotland's Accessibility Team:

To help Transport Scotland have a national disability awareness training course.

6: To Transport Providers:

To make sure changes to services or new services are planned with disabled people.



7: To Department for Transport, Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, Transport Scotland and Scottish Ministers:

To advise the Department for Transport to update the Inclusive Mobility Guidance as soon as possible.



If there is a delay, MACS will ask Transport Scotland to write a Scottish version of the guide.

8: To Transport Providers:

We want staff who work for transport providers to have accessibility and disability knowledge.





9: To Transport Providers and Transport Scotland:

Transport services should work with MACS to make sure policies and contracts include accessibility.



10: To Transport Scotland's Accessible Travel Team:

MACS will give advice to Transport Scotland to help them do the work that is set out in the Accessible Travel Framework.