

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 17 June 2014

Attn: Edinburgh Evening News

For immediate release

EADIE URGES NETWORK RAIL TO LIFT WAVERLEY CYCLE BAN

Edinburgh Southern MSP Jim Eadie has today (Wednesday) urged Network Rail to reconsider its controversial decision to ban cycle access from Waverley Bridge - a move which has irked motorists, commuters and disability charities alike and raised significant safety concerns.

Since the beginning of the month, Network Rail has banned all traffic from entering the station - making it particularly difficult for disabled people and others with mobility issues to get to and from the station platform.

The operator has also placed a sign at the north entrance on Waverley Bridge, requiring cyclists to dismount and share a congested narrow pavement with pedestrians, prams and people carrying luggage.

Eadie took the opportunity in Scottish Parliament question session to call on Transport Minister Keith Brown's support to urge Network Rail to review the decision, increasing the mounting pressure on the operator to look for a more suitable solution to the problem.

In a statement, Jim Eadie said:

"It is clear from the number of constituents that have written to me on this issue that there is genuine concern over the access arrangements in place at Waverley Station.

"I am extremely concerned about the impact of these changes, which have made travelling to and from the station an unwelcome experience for many and risk disenfranchising the groups of travellers we should be doing everything to encourage.

"Waverley is a tremendously important national transport hub and is often the first glimpse of Edinburgh new arrivals to our city see. By banning cyclists and making life for disabled people more difficult, Network Rail is sending out the wrong message about our capital city.

"Banning access isn't good for sustainable or integrated travel and is making life harder for those with mobility issues. It's time that Network Rail listened to their customers, cycling charities and disability groups and brought an end to this ridiculous policy."

ENDS

NOTE TO EDITORS

This release concerns a Scottish Parliament Portfolio Question delivered by Jim Eadie on Wednesday 18 June 2014, a full text of which can be found below:

It is encouraging that 39 partners are delivering cycling projects across Scotland, showing the growing appetite for infrastructure that makes cycling an easy and natural choice for everyday short trips

But what message does it send out to cyclists and tourists visiting Scotland that Network Rail have banned cycling from Waverley Bridge down into the station on both ramps with cyclists having to use the narrow pavements, already often congested with walkers and totally unsuitable for prams, buggies and bikes to pass each other.

Will the Minister takes this matter up with Network Rail and ask them to review the decision and open the north ramp to cyclists and much more clearly signpost the safe way into the station

CONTACT

Jim Eadie MSP

Jim.eadie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

0131 348 6283