

Derek MacKay
Minister for Transport and Islands
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

16th March 2016

Dear Minister,

I write to express my serious concerns regarding Transport Scotland's plans to downgrade cycle carriage capacity on the Edinburgh-Glasgow service and the West Highland Line.

I would have thought that the increased demand on Edinburgh to Glasgow for commuters and the West Highland Line for tourists would mean that there would be planning for extra, not reduced capacity. I was also very surprised to learn that Transport Scotland has failed to consult on these changes.

Given the huge benefits cycling brings to people's health and the positive impact it has on air pollution and traffic congestion we should be doing more to encourage people to cycle rather than cutting back on access.

I was also concerned by Transport Scotland's announcement that it will no longer attend the national rail/cycle forum to discuss bike/rail issues in Scotland. I agree with Spokes lead organiser Dave du Feu that these decisions will only cast doubt over the Scottish Government's commitment to ensuring that 10% of all journeys will be made by bike in 2020.

I would urge you, as Minister, to listen to the call made by Spokes and intervene in these decisions in order to maintain existing levels of bike capacity on these services, and to ensure that Transport Scotland returns to the BikeRail Forum so that it can play a positive and constructive role in bike/rail development in Scotland.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Boyack