

**From:**

**To:** "Keavy.o'neill@transport.gov.scot" <Keavy.o'neill@transport.gov.scot>

**Sent:** Saturday, 16 April 2016, 12:28

**Subject:** Oban line bike provision

Thanks for your reply of 15 April. I agree that the planned Glasgow Edinburgh line provision is on a frequent service and can be monitored to see if it is adequate. Often the travellers have little luggage, and I have used the service where helpful staff have asked me to stay near the bike so I can move it if required.

**On the Oban line** I think it is a shocking decision, and a ridiculous franchise agreement. Each year there are more interesting and exciting Highland bike runs, both on and off road, devised and advertised. Often the promotions mention the railway stations on them. The general travellers on these lines have more luggage and it will be hard to accommodate extra bikes on these busy summer services.

It is perfectly possible to have small a coach with provision for bikes, buggies, and other items. I have been on such coaches in Germany, where the seats can be folded up to accommodate bikes.

**There is simply no interest, funding or proper inclusion of cycling in any planning** by the exiting government. Giving people the confidence of proper cycling provision would promote many health objectives, tackle obesity, meet the "Cycling journeys" objective, and counter traffic congestion.

**I quote from your letter below, and ask for an assurance that after the election you will urgeThe Minister and the transport authorities to approach the operator and look at this issue again.** I thought the operator was from the Netherlands, so they should understand proper cycling provision.

*"Thank you for your letter.*

*Please be assured Transport Scotland and ScotRail are aware that bookable cycle spaces will reduce to two on West Highland line services, the minimum required by the Franchise Agreement, and are looking to understand the impact, develop options to manage this and how to deliver solutions which will balance the needs of all passengers who wish to travel on the route, in conjunction with relevant cycling groups"*

Yours sincerely

