

# ScotRail explores trains for cyclists

RAIL

LTT 5.1.18

THE SCOTTISH Government has started talks with ScotRail over the provision of carriages with space for outdoor equipment, including bicycles, on some of the nation's scenic railways.

The Government's programme for 2017-18 committed to taking forward work on "introducing dedicated carriages for cycles and other outdoor sports equipment on rural routes in the north and west".

ScotRail and Transport Scotland were unable to comment on suggestions that single-carriage Class 153 diesel units, made redundant by rolling stock cascades in England and Wales,



153s: Scotland-bound?

could be leased to provide outdoor equipment space. The units would be able to work in multiple with ScotRail's Class 156, 158 and 170 units.

The idea of using 153s is endorsed in a report on demand for cycles on the West Highland Line by consultant AECOM for Hitrans, the Highlands and Islands transport partnership.

Says AECOM: "Consideration should be given to the conversion of suitable rolling stock, for example 153 sprinter units that will be shortly available to provide this facility."

"The use of such a vehicle may require additional station dwell time included in stopping patterns at stations to allow unloading and loading of the bikes. 153 units are currently gauge cleared for the routes under review and infrastructure changes are therefore considered unnecessary but will require confirmation."

A Transport Scotland spokeswoman told LTT: "Discussions have already started with ScotRail to determine the most appropriate solution to enhance provision for cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts."

## Our September 2017 tweet – perhaps we were correct!



Spokes CycleCampaign

@SpokesLothian

There's a rumour that this [#bikerail](#) para in the [#ScotPFG](#) can be taken literally.

Almost unbelievable if true!!

[@HumzaYousaf](#) [@VisitScotland](#)

- introducing dedicated carriages for cycles and other outdoor sports equipment on rural routes in the north and west

9:38 PM - 15 Sep 2017

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