



Cycle Capacity on Scotland's Railways

Members' Business, Wednesday 24 May 2017, 1.15pm
Parliamentary briefing from Transform Scotland

1. We welcome the introduction of Class 125 HST trains on Scottish inter-city routes

- 1.1. We welcome the introduction of the Class 125 HST trains to the inter-city rail routes in Scotland. We believe that they will deliver a better quality and more appropriate travelling experience between Scotland's cities north of the Central Belt and should significantly boost passenger numbers on these routes.

2. There is a need to upgrade infrastructure to allow rail to compete with the car

- 2.1. Reduction in journey times is also a key aspect in encouraging more passengers to choose rail over the car. While these trains have the potential to deliver some journey time improvements, we believe that much more needs to be done to upgrade the rail infrastructure north of the Central Belt if rail is truly to compete on these routes. Our *Inter-City Express* campaign sets out a programme for route improvements that we believe should be delivered in parallel with the committed programme for dualling the A9 and A96 roads.¹

3. Cycle tourism brings £345 million to the Scottish economy every year

- 3.1. Cycle carriage on trains should be considered in the context of cycle tourism with the aim of developing this market. Recent research by Sustrans Scotland has found that cycle tourism contributes £345 million to the Scottish economy annually.² The further development of the National Cycle Network and other cycle routes across the country would increase this figure substantially.³

4. The rail passenger offering should not be compromised as a substitute for improving rail infrastructure

- 4.1. The current plans for cycle carriage, in particular the limited capacity offered at intermediate stations, appears to us to compromise the passenger offering as a way of speeding up journey times. We do not believe that this is right way to reduce journey times: infrastructure improvements should be the focus.

5. About Transform Scotland

- 5.1. Transform Scotland is the national alliance for sustainable transport, bringing together organisations from the private, public and voluntary sectors: <http://transformscotland.org.uk>

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¹ See <http://intercityexpress.transformscotland.org.uk/>

² 'New research reveals cycle tourism is worth £345 million to Scottish economy':
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/news/new-research-reveals-cycle-tourism-worth-£345-million-scottish-economy>

³ Earlier research by Transform Scotland looked at ways in which cycle tourism could be further expanded across the country:
<http://transformscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/research/the-value-of-cycle-tourism/>