

# Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland



Advising Scottish Ministers  
on Accessible Travel

## Annual Report 2023 to 2024



## Easy Read Part 2



## About this document



This is an Easy Read report.



This is Part 2 of the report.



## Update from the Planning and Strategy team



**Planning and strategy** mean the ideas and plans that MACS uses to decide what action will happen.



3 main projects from the Planning and Strategy team this year:



1. We have chosen new and better ways to collect information about travel.

This helps us work with Transport Scotland to check on how projects are going.



2. We have worked with other organisations - like Social Security - to talk about the problem of Motability taking too much **profit**.



**Profit** means the money that a business keeps after paying all its bills.



3. We told Fiona Hyslop MSP that **Mobility Centres** and **Driving Assessment Centres** need to be:

- in the right places
- able to take more people



**Mobility Centres** and **Driving Assessment Centres** are places which offer different kinds of assessments and support with:

- choosing mobility vehicles
- driving skills
- having changes made to vehicles for you

# Update from the Bus, Taxis and Community Transport team



2 main projects from the Bus, Taxis and Community Transport team this year:



1. We organised a learning day to work with bus organisations.



We shared what bus travel is like for disabled people in Scotland.



2. We worked with Disability Equality Scotland and Transport Scotland on disability **hate crime**.





A **hate crime** is when someone does something to hurt you because of who you are or who they think you are.



We helped make new hate crime training with Police teams.

## Update from the Ferries and Planes team



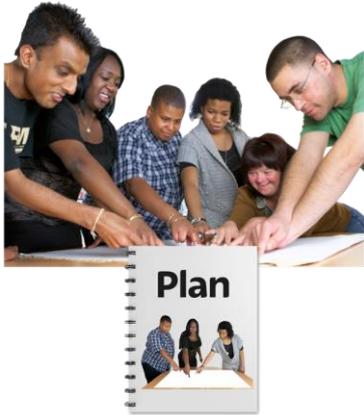
3 main projects from the Ferries and Planes team this year:



1. We organised a learning day to work with ferry organisations.



We shared what ferry travel is like for disabled people in Scotland.



2. We worked with Transport Scotland on the **Islands Connectivity Plan**.

The **Islands Connectivity Plan** is a plan to help communities on Scottish Islands stay connected.



We also worked on other plans – including the **Vessels** and **Ports** Plan.



**Vessels** means boats.

**Ports** are the towns and cities along a coast where boats can stop.



3. We have met with ferry organisations in Stornoway to help make ferry travel better.

## Update from the Rail team



3 main projects from the Rail team this year:



1. We asked that new trains are designed to be the same level as station platforms so that disabled people can get on trains easily.



ScotRail says this will happen for most new trains being built in the future.



2. We worked hard to get information from ScotRail.



We wanted to know how they checked which groups of people would be most affected by closing ticket offices.



3. We worked with ScotRail and National Rail Enquiries.

We told them how their Journey Checker online tool was hard for some disabled people to use.



The Journey Checker has been fixed now.

# Update from the Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel team



**Infrastructure** means the things that help transport to happen, like:

- buildings
- roads and paths
- services
- stations and stops



**Active Travel** means travelling by:

- walking
- wheeling
- cycling
- scootering



3 main projects from the Roads, Infrastructure and Active Travel team this year:



1. We worked hard to make the **Pavement Parking ban** begin in December 2023.

The **Pavement Parking ban** stops people from parking their vehicles on pavements.



MACS believes that no one should ever be allowed to park on pavements.



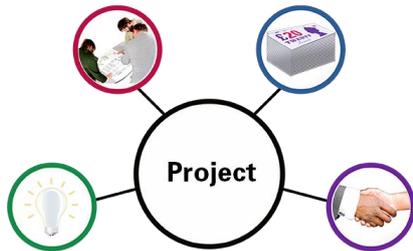
2. We worked with Transport Scotland's Blue Badge team to make sure that the first **Low Emission Zone** in Glasgow started smoothly for disabled people.



A **Low Emission Zone** is an area in a city which doesn't allow vehicles with the most poisonous exhaust gases in.

Low emission zones are also called LEZs for short.

**3.** We have worked to help lots of projects move forward, including:



- street design in Glasgow
- designing the new Monklands Hospital
- working with the Scottish Roadworks Commissioner
- writing 10 papers that explain what MACS thinks about important things happening in Scotland

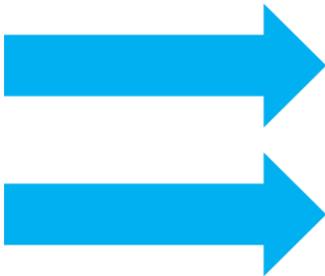


## Other work this year



MACS has worked with the Scottish Government to make the plan for **Transport to Health and Social Care** stronger.

**Transport to Health and Social Care** means how people get to their health and social care appointments.



We have made 2 important suggestions, called **proposals**.



Proposal 1 asks if the Scottish Government can hear from disabled people and older people face to face.



This was agreed by the Scottish Government and meetings happened so that these people's experiences could be heard.



Proposal 2 asks if the new Delivery Plan for Transport to Healthcare can be written using a new way of thinking.

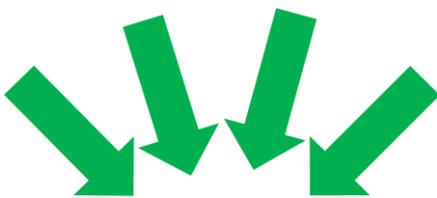
This new way is called the Theory of Change and it makes planning clearer.



This proposal was agreed by the Scottish Government.



MACS says thank you to the Scottish Government team and Transport Scotland team who worked together with MACS so well.



MACS has helped 4 new organisations join the Accessible Vehicle and Equipment Scheme.

This scheme is also called AVES for short.



This means that it is not just Motability who can lend out accessible vehicles now.



Some of the new organisations will offer bikes and trikes to disabled people in Scotland.



MACS has asked Motability to give back some profits to customers in Scotland.

This is starting to happen.



MACS has set up a new group.

The new group will look at collecting travel information in different ways.



We can use this new information to see how well Transport Scotland's accessible travel plans are going.



We are part of a group called Accessibility 4 Nations Liaison Group.

This group has committees from:



- England
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales



The group has worked on:



- Motability
- **climate change** targets
- train station ticket offices closing



- cheaper travel tickets for some people



- rules about planes carrying some types of mobility scooters and wheelchairs which use batteries



**Climate change** means how our weather and temperature patterns are changing too fast because of human action.

## Changes to our staff team

3 MACS team members left this year.

We would like to say thank you to:



- Graham Dunn
- David Hunter
- Hilary Stubbs

for their hard work.



We welcome new MACS members:

- Lynn Pilkington
- Anne MacLeod
- Nariese Whyte
- Zara Todd
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## More information



You can find out more about MACS and our work at [our website here](#).



You can also follow us on X

**@WeAreMACS**

