



The Scottish
Parliament

Please reply to

Constituency Office
Unit 65, Fountain Business Centre
Coatbridge, ML5 3AA

Phone : 01236 449122
Fax : 01236 449137

Mr Peter Lloyd
Rail Policy Executive
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House
58 Port Dundas Road
Glasgow
G4 0HF

17th August 2009

Dear Peter,

Station Car Parking Policy in Scotland

I write to you in response to your letter dated 31st July 2009 in which you invite me to participate in a consultation on development policy relating to railway stations. I would like to raise a number of points which have been brought to my attention by constituents.

There is a distinct lack of parking in and around railway stations in the Coatbridge area i.e. Coatdyke, Sunnyside and Blairhill. This affects not only commuters but the residents of the communities whose streets are being turned into car parks as a result of insufficient parking space within stations.

The increased commuter traffic which overflows onto surrounding residential areas, exacerbates problems of road safety in streets which cannot accommodate such traffic volumes. This makes rail travel inconvenient for commuters and creates difficulties for residents looking for parking places for their own cars.

Blairhill Station in particular is situated on a busy main road which has no car park. Commuters therefore park cars on both sides of this busy road thus blocking the view of any pedestrians trying to cross the road. This is particularly worrying as the station is also adjacent to a High School and used by many children.

Indeed, I myself have encountered difficulty when attempting to travel, by train, into Glasgow or Edinburgh for meetings, which has led me to consider rail travel only as a last resort. Clearly this situation contravenes Government proposals to promote a green agenda by encouraging eco friendly modes of transport with the emphasis on getting commuters off the roads and on to public transport.

Elaine Smith MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Coatbridge & Chryston
The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
phone: - 0131-348-5824



The Scottish
Parliament

I am also concerned that this problem will only be further exasperated by the re-opening of the Airdrie-Bathgate rail line which will no doubt see commuter numbers vastly increased as people from Coatbridge take advantage of the direct link to Edinburgh.

I would be most grateful if you could advise whether Transport Scotland has any plans to address the shortage of parking at railway stations so as to make rail travel a viable alternative for commuters in my constituency.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Elaine Smith MSP