

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) for the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019: Local Services Franchises

Guidance document

Disclaimer

This document is a point in time assessment of the likely effects of the above-named proposal on the rights and wellbeing of children and young people. This impact assessment should be read in conjunction with other impact assessments prepared for this proposal.

Scottish Government acknowledge the importance of monitoring and evaluating the impact of strategic decisions and legislation on children's rights and wellbeing. Any information gathered during implementation of the legislation or strategic decision to which the impact assessment relates, will be used to inform future determinations of impact. Any new strategic decision or new legislation (including amending legislation) would be subject to a new CRWIA in line with the legislative requirements.

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment Template

1. Brief Summary

Type of proposal:

- Decision of a strategic nature relating to the rights and wellbeing of children.

Name the proposal, and describe its overall aims and intended purpose.

Terms defined:

- "franchising" – franchising is a system that allows a local transport authority (LTA) to award exclusive rights to run certain bus services to the most competitive bidder for a set period of time. During this period, no other bus company can run those services.
- "franchising framework" – a document which sets out information about a franchise, including where the franchise will operate, what local bus services will be provided, and the standards to which those services will be provided.

Once there is a franchising framework in place the bus companies can make their bids to the local transport authority.

- “franchise” – the exclusive right to run certain bus services in an area for a set period, which is awarded to a bus company by the local transport authority. The word “franchise” is also sometimes used to mean the area covered by the franchising framework or franchise agreement.
- “auditors” - are people who check to make sure others are following the rules and doing things the right way.

The document is guidance, called the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019: Local Services Franchises Guidance Document.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to local transport authorities intending to use the franchising powers to improve bus services within their areas. The document helps them understand all the things that they should consider and do, in order to make decisions about bus services, which will be of most benefit to the people living in their areas. It also includes guidance to auditors looking at the local transport authorities’ franchising proposals.

The Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 which introduced franchising, and the regulations which bring it into effect are outside the scope of this CRWIA and have a CRWIA or policy document to support them. Published information is linked below:

- [The Bus Services Improvement Partnerships and Local Services Franchises \(Provision of Information\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023](#)
 - [Policy Note including information on CRWIA](#)
- [The Local Services Franchises \(Traffic Commissioner Notices and Panels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024.](#)
 - [Policy Note including a statement by Scottish Ministers on children's rights](#)
 - [CRWIA](#)
- [The Public Service Vehicles \(Registration of Local Services\) \(Local Services Franchises Transitional Provisions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2025](#)
 - [Policy Note including a statement by Scottish Ministers on children's rights](#)
 - [CRWIA](#)

This assessment purely focuses on any potential impacts of the guidance.

Start date of proposal’s development: 21 November 2024

Start date of CRWIA process: 28 November 2024

2. With reference given to the requirements of the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, which aspects of the proposal are relevant to/impact upon children's rights?

There are no aspects of the guidance which have an impact on the rights of children in the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024.

This is technical guidance which aids local transport authorities intending to use the franchising powers to improve bus services in their areas, the impacts of the franchising powers themselves are outside the scope of this CRWIA. This CRWIA purely focuses on guidance which is not relevant to the rights of children as per the UNCRC requirements.

3. Please provide a summary of the evidence gathered which will be used to inform your decision-making and the content of the proposal

Not applicable

4. Further to the evidence described at '3' have you identified any 'gaps' in evidence which may prevent determination of impact? If yes, please provide an explanation of how they will be addressed

Not applicable

5. Analysis of Evidence

Not applicable

6. What changes (if any) have been made to the proposal as a result of this assessment?

Not applicable

Conclusion

7. As a result of the evidence gathered and analysed against all UNCRC requirements, what is the potential overall impact of this proposal on children's rights?

No impact

8. If you have identified a positive impact on children's rights, please describe below how the proposal will protect, respect, and fulfil children's rights in Scotland.

9. If a negative impact has been identified please describe it below. Is there a risk this could potentially amount to an incompatibility?

10. As a result of the evidence gathered and analysed against all wellbeing indicators, will the proposal contribute to the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland?

Safe: Not Applicable

Healthy: Not Applicable

Achieving: Not Applicable

Nurtured: Not Applicable

Active: Not Applicable

Respected: Not Applicable

Responsible: Not Applicable

Included: Not Applicable

If yes, please provide an explanation below:

11. How will you communicate to children and young people the impact that the proposal will have on their rights?

The CRWIA will be published on the Transport Scotland website at the same time as the guidance and anybody who wants to read it can find it there. The CRWIA has been written so that children reading it can understand it and can understand whether the guidance affects children's rights.

Post Assessment Review and sign-off

12. Planning for the review of impact on children's rights and wellbeing

If the Scottish Government finds any relevant new information when local transport authorities use the guidance it will be looked at to decide whether there might be an impact on children's rights. But because of what the guidance does it is not expected that this will happen.

13. Sign off

Policy Lead Signature & Date of Sign Off: Bridget Bryden 02/03/26

Deputy Director Signature & Date of Sign Off:
11/03/2026



Date CRWIA team first contacted: 13 June 2025