

# Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland



Advising Scottish Ministers  
on Accessible Travel

## Annual Report 2024 to 2025



## Easy Read Part 2



## About this document



This is an Easy Read report.



This is Part 2 of the report.

## Helping to change policies and decisions



A **policy** is a document that an organisation writes to show how it works and what will happen.



MACS has helped make change happen in 5 different ways during 2024 to 2025:



1. We have helped write policies and plans for big decisions in Scotland.



For example, we looked carefully at transport policy documents and the Scottish Budget.



We made sure that each review focused on:

- accessibility
- being fair to everyone
- making sure no one is left out



2. MACS has worked closely with Transport Scotland.



We have also written to Scottish Government Ministers about:

- accessibility on the Benbecula to Stornaway air route
- Motability's **profits**



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



3. MACS has given lots of advice for **inclusive design** in our streets, towns and public places.

**Inclusive Design** means building places and spaces which everyone can use.



For example, we met with the **Scottish Road Works Commissioner** to make a new training session for staff who check on roadworks.



The **Scottish Road Works Commissioner** is a team which checks that road works are being done safely.



4. MACS has given advice to make transport services better and more accessible.



For example, we worked with Transport Scotland to plan a trial.

The trial will let anyone supporting a blind person travel for free by train.

5. MACS has been part of **Cross Party Groups**.



A **Cross Party Group** is a group of people including MSPs who are interested in the same topic.

MACS has worked in Cross Party Groups about:



- disability rights
- young people living on islands
- the cost of rural transport
- cleaner transport for rural areas
- fairness around cleaner transport
- difficulties for women travelling

## Big work we have done this year



MACS has worked on 8 key things in 2024 to 2025:



1. We worked hard to tell everyone how the Benbecula to Stornaway flights were not accessible.

And how disabled people were missing healthcare appointments.



We looked carefully at a new plane but we still have worries.



2. We worked on problems where road works were blocking the way for disabled people walking or wheeling.

3. We worked more closely with disabled people's organisations, like:



- People First
- Carers Scotland
- Cornerstone
- The Assembly

We used their experiences to help make our plans, presentations and events.





4. MACS has done important work to make it easier for disabled passengers to travel in Scotland by train.

This work includes:



- supporting ScotRail to have better designs, signs and communication
- giving advice to Glasgow Clyde Metro planners
- giving advice to Network Rail and ScotRail about the design of new trains
- looking at **Passenger Assist** numbers and facts



**Passenger Assist** is a free service to help anyone who needs support to travel by train.

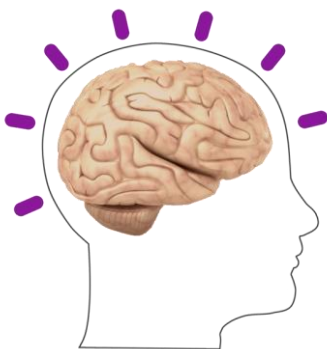


5. We worked closely with ferry organisations to help make changes happen.

This work included:



- making booking easier
- joining up ferry, air and healthcare transport
- checking the design of new ferries
- planning spaces for **neurodivergent** passengers



**Neurodivergent** means have a brain which is organised in a different way.

Neurodivergent people may have a diagnosis like autism, a learning disability, dyslexia or ADHD.



6. We worked to make sure that disabled people's needs are planned into every part of **active travel** and street design.

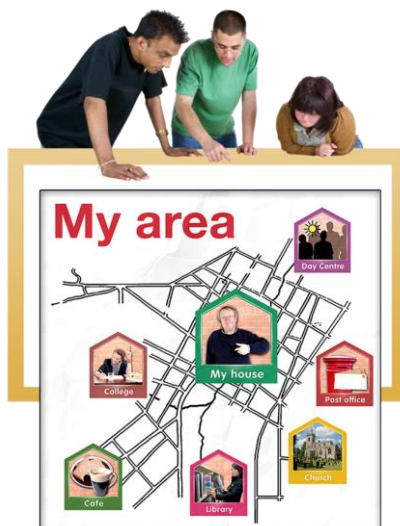
**Active Travel** means travelling by:

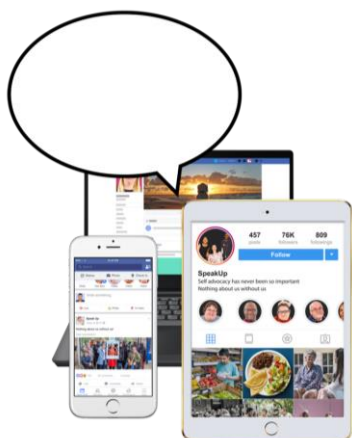
- walking
- wheeling
- cycling
- scootering



Our work included:

- working with Cycling by Design to say what works and does not work for disabled people
- working with Visibility Scotland to make streets better
- working with local councils to design new streets





7. MACS has worked to get our messages out to more people.

We have joined social media organisations LinkedIn and BlueSky.



Our plans helped us to work more closely with disabled people's organisations.

And to be a leader across Scotland on accessible transport.



8. We met with **the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice.**

**The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice** is in charge of:



- community planning
- social security
- organisations like charities

We told her we wanted:



- the Motability Scheme to truly support disabled people, not just make big profits for Motability

- profit to be shared with customers

- a new Scottish Motability Users Group



- more information about how long it will take to get more organisations offering vehicles for the Accessible Vehicle and Equipment Scheme

We asked Motability:



- if powered wheelchairs and scooters can be kept at the end of the loan

- to let vehicles be kept for an extra 3 months if there has been a death

- to make a new Scottish Accessible Vehicle and Equipment advice group

## More information



You can find out more about our work if you click on [this blue link to see MACS website here.](#)



You can follow us on X.

**@WeAreMACS**



You can follow us on LinkedIn.



**Bluesky**

You can follow us on Bluesky.



You can email us at [MACS@gov.scot](mailto:MACS@gov.scot)

