



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01626

Name of petitioner

Pat Rafferty on behalf of Unite Scotland

Petition title

Regulation of Bus Services

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to legislate to regulate bus services in Scotland and to carry out an inquiry into the benefits of bringing bus services in Scotland into common ownership.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

In the Fourth Scottish Parliament, Unite supported the proposed Bus Regulation (Scotland) Bill brought to Parliament by Iain Gray MSP.

In the Third Scottish Parliament, Unite supported the proposed Regulation of Bus Services Bill brought to Parliament by Charlie Gordon MSP.

Neither of these bills resulted in legislation to bring bus services under regulation or common ownership.

Petition background information

Scotland's bus services are in a mess. The numbers speak for themselves.

- The number of bus routes registered with the Traffic Commissioner has fallen by 21% since 2006.
- Since 2007, the number of journeys taken by bus in Scotland is down by 74 million – a 15% drop.
- On current prices, local bus fares have jumped by 18% over the past five years.
- A staggering £2.6 billion in public subsidies has been handed to bus firms in Scotland since 2006/07, fuelling healthy profits made by the likes of Stagecoach and First.

Haud the Bus is Unite Scotland's campaign to put passengers before profit. It started as a Unite Community campaign following bus service cuts in North Lanarkshire - but now it's going nationwide.

We want buses in Scotland to be regulated again, so that local people - through their councils - can regain control over their bus services.

We also know that the best bus companies are often those that put passengers before

profits - like Lothian Buses in Edinburgh, which is owned by local councils, not private shareholders. So we also want MSPs to explore ways of bringing bus services back into common ownership.

We have commissioned research into how we can work together to create a world-class bus service for passengers, and you can read the full report here:

http://www.transportforqualityoflife.com/u/files/160120_Building_a_world-class_bus_system_for_Britain_FINAL1.pdf

Unique web address

<http://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/busregulation>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

20 / 12 / 2016

Comments to stimulate online discussion

We want buses in Scotland to be regulated again, so that local people - through their councils - can regain control over their bus services.

The UK government is putting a bill through Westminster that will give powers to local authorities in England to regulate buses. But the Scottish Government still stands against bus regulation. We think that's wrong.

Would you like to have control over your local bus services? Have you had problems with bus services in your area?