

## Petitioner submission of 13 November 2023

### PE1928/I: Provide free rail travel for disabled people who meet the qualifications for free bus travel

I would just like to point out that that the Equalities Act 2010 **requires that reasonable adjustments must be made to meet the needs of disabled people**. Since all long-distance buses in Scotland (such as those operated by Scottish City-Link, Parks of Hamilton, and Stagecoach Megabus) have onboard toilets that are unsuitable for most disabled people, and trains operating in Scotland do offer toilet facilities suitable for people with disabilities, free train travel would help ensure disabled people have equitable access to public transport.

In order to comply with the Equalities Act, free rail travel should be provided to disabled people under the same terms and conditions that free bus travel is also available to disabled people, and for this purpose includes travel to and from Berwick-upon-Tweed and Carlisle.

Since the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010 are not devolved, the Scottish Government has no choice but to ensure these provisions are complied with.