

Petitioner submission of 31 January 2023

PE1936/G: Remove Pothole from Scotland's roads

Since I brought this situation to your attention, I believe the situation has gotten much worse. Whilst we accept that the winter brings much harsher, wet, and cold weather, surely that is the very point of keeping roads in a safe and manageable condition.

Instead, this winter has brought motorists utter misery. Things have become so bad in various places throughout Scotland that many pothole demonstrations were set up to try and force local authorities to do something about the unsafe conditions of our roads.

Whilst we know that a car must be safe to drive on the road, it seems almost ironic that the unsafe condition of roads are causing the damage to the cars in the first place. It is a total lack of accountability and shows no duty of care whatsoever.

Whilst in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, we can ill afford to pay out for further repairs on our cars. Many FOIs (Freedom of Information requests) have illustrated that councils throughout this country are avoiding paying for repairs and that is equally not acceptable. The Highway Code states that we should drive in line with the condition of the road and yet the very condition of such roads is the hazard itself.

Many people are online stating that they no longer drive in rain or in the dark for fear of hitting a hole. I personally share such a sentiment and I also deem this issue to be that of an equality issue and therefore covered under the Equality Act 2010. It appears that many women are now frightened of driving in case they hit one of the thousands of potholes throughout this country and find themselves sitting alone somewhere quiet, waiting on the AA or RAC for quite some time. This is obviously stopping many women travelling for safety reasons and that is unacceptable and could be deemed as contravening the Act.

On a last note, I could not help but listen to the debate in Westminster on 26 January 2023 between the SNP and Penny Mordaunt. Apparently, the SNP-led Scottish Government have underspent their budget by almost two billion pounds. I note that part of that budget was signposted for transport. How then can the Scottish Government possibly justify their actions or inactions as the case might be, in relation to the

conditions of the roads. Surely, sense should prevail and yet we find that sense is nowhere to be found once again.

Perhaps it will take the death of a family on the unsafe networks to illustrate the need for health and safety. Perhaps the death of a cyclist when the person falls and is subsequently hit by a passing traffic. Perhaps it will take something to happen to a lone driver waiting hours for a breakdown for many hours. All of this could be avoided and yet the budget is underspent, and the public are at risk the moment we leave the house.