

Scottish Government submission of 7 September 2022

PE1955/A: Make the provision of public toilets a statutory duty

The Scottish Government recognises that the provision of public toilet facilities is an important issue, and one that is of significant public interest. The Scottish Government expects local authorities to ensure adequate public toilet facilities are available, sufficient for the needs of the local area.

However there are no plans at this time to make the provision of public toilets a statutory obligation on local authorities. This is because as locally elected representatives and the people who understand local issues, they are best placed to prioritise budgets in line with the needs of their communities. The current arrangement gives them the flexibility to do this, and Scottish Ministers would only interfere with this ability in exceptional circumstances.

The Committee may be interested to know, however, that the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund launched in 2018 and has, to date, invested over £12.9m in 66 collaborative projects across 15 local authority areas and both of Scotland's national park authorities. These projects are responding to local infrastructure requirements, and the project proposals have included, for example, delivering new public toilets, car parking, and waste disposal facilities.