

PE2209/B: Make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles

Petitioner written submission, 3 January 2026

In 2025, a UK wide petition was created, looking to make CCTV mandatory in all taxis and private hire vehicles.

It received **8,421** signatures with a significant number being from Scotland.

This was within the background context of increased public awareness between the relationship of private hire vehicles and/or taxis with 'Grooming Gangs', trafficking and various other criminal activities which are a blight on our communities.

I created a similar petition with relevance to Scotland, and it received 38 signatures over a short period of time and with a small sample size.

This was designed to bring this conversation - at minimum - to Scotland.

This petition was also signed and shared by MP Joani Reid, and verbally supported by Lorna Hughes from the Daily Mail.

With reference to 'Grooming Gangs', the Casey Audit defined a clear link between the use of taxis/private hire vehicles, gang rape and group based child sexual exploitation.

There is also a link between taxis/private hires and national drug running and child trafficking.

Charities involved in protecting women from sexual abuse have identified this mode of transport as a risk.

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust are one such charity who continue to campaign for greater regulation.

Preliminary studies have shown that mandatory CCTV does increase safety.

I want the Scottish Government to pass legislation which requires that all taxis and private hire vehicles be fitted with operational CCTV to ensure the safety of both passengers and drivers.

Beyond this, I want the Scottish Government to discuss increased regulation of taxis/private hire vehicles from a top down perspective, across Scotland.

1 - All drivers must be vetted in terms of criminal records, particularly when pertaining to issues related to child abuse and sexual exploitation.

I note with disappointment and would appreciate awareness and comment upon the fact that Inverclyde Councillors are looking to 'relax' background criminal checks on drivers from outside of the UK. This would be a huge risk in terms of grooming in my view, and a huge risk in general to the Scottish people.

2 - Taxi companies must face financial and criminal penalties if found to be involved in national criminal trafficking operations.

3 - Taxi companies must be regulated, and this must be overseen nationally, given the known association with local councils not necessarily upholding regulations, and the risk of localised corruption.

4 - Taxis in one locale must not be able to register as private hire vehicles in another locale. This has been seen and identified as a feature in criminal 'Grooming Gang' behaviour in England. Therefore it is also a likely mode of exploitation and evasion in Scotland.

5 - There should be absolutely no access to becoming a private hire/taxi vehicle driver for illegal immigrants, who are involved in live cases associated with 'Grooming Gangs' as identified by Casey.

6 - Police Scotland must be made aware of these links and be supported with the creation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) in terms of investigating 'Grooming Gangs' crimes which operate via this mode of operation, and be given full operational powers to pursue such offenders.

7 - There have been recent reports of incidents of Glaswegian girls being targeted by foreign men in vehicles, alongside the pattern of mass male illegal immigration into Glasgow, and other cities. These have been identified and corroborated by citizens and the police.

I wish for the Committee to be fully aware of this, consider this, comment upon it, and consider how they intend to liaise with citizens and frontline police in gaining more information on this issue. , The Committee should obtain information on the profile of taxis/private hire vehicles associated with 'Grooming Gangs', in order to support actions which they will take forward as a result of this petition.

I wish for all of these points to be addressed and commented upon, with a particular cognisance that the review of 'Grooming Gangs' in Scotland overseen by Alexis Jay is imminent.