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27 November 2025

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter of 18 November 2025 seeking an update on Directive (EU) 2024/2841, which establishes the European Disability Card and Parking Card for persons with disabilities.

The UK Government has an informal, reciprocal agreement that UK-issued Blue Badges should be continued to be recognised in most European countries. Blue Badges issued across the 4 Nations already meet a high standard and include several security features to prevent misuse, including holograms, photographs and barcodes. We would welcome new EU legislation that would introduce alignment in parking card standards, that could be adopted at the UK level. We will continue to monitor developments on Directive (EU) 2024/2841 with interest in this regard.

As the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture previously stated, Directive (EU) 2024/2841 falls under the Equality Act 2010 which is reserved to the UK Government. However, building a fairer Scotland in which disabled people of all ages can flourish remains a priority for this Government. That is why our Disability Equality Plan, launched in June 2025, reflects the evolving challenges disabled people face and sets out our journey to deliver meaningful change.

The Plan, co-produced with Disabled People's Organisations and underpinned by lived experience is rooted in the social model of disability, developed by disabled activists as an alternative way of understanding disability. Under this model, the focus is on removing, reducing, and mitigating barriers that negatively impact disabled people.

To tackle these barriers, the first phase of the Disability Equality Plan focuses on three priority areas:

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- **Financial security for disabled households** – addressing disproportionate impacts of poverty and rising living costs.
- **Full inclusion and independent living** – enabling disabled people to participate fully in community life.
- **Mental health and wellbeing support** – ensuring tailored services to promote wellbeing.

Furthermore, Transport Scotland's Accessible Travel Framework was co-produced with disabled people and launched in 2016. This sets out our vision that all disabled people can travel with the same freedom, choice, dignity and opportunity as other citizens. The Framework is focused on improving the overall journey experience for disabled people by removing the barriers which prevent them travelling.

The current Accessible Travel Framework is scheduled to end in 2026. Transport Scotland are working with a range of stakeholders including the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland, Disability Equality Scotland, and other Disabled People's Organisations, to understand the priorities for disabled people as we co-produce the next framework.

We remain committed to working with partners to ensure disabled people in Scotland can travel with dignity and equality, and we will continue to monitor developments on Directive (EU) 2024/2841.

Yours sincerely,

**KAUKAB STEWART**

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