

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 29 October 2025
16th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

PE2177: Support and fund mobility services

Introduction

Petitioner Jordon Anderson

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide sustainable funding to organisations providing mobility equipment.

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2177>

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 24 July 2025.
2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.
3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.
4. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 12 signatures have been received on this petition.
5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered.
6. The Committee has received a submission from the Scottish Government, which is set out in **Annexe C** of this paper.

Action

7. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Clerks to the Committee
October 2025

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2177: Support and fund mobility services

Petitioner

Jordon Anderson

Date Lodged

24 July 2025

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide sustainable funding to organisations providing mobility equipment.

Background information

Mobility services are vital for access to shops, services and community life. Without secure financial support, they face closure—putting equality, mobility and inclusion at risk.

Shopmobility Aberdeen has provided essential services since 1992, supporting disabled people, older adults, and those with temporary mobility challenges. They offer mobility scooters, wheelchairs, a wheelchair-accessible car, and volunteer companions to help people live independently and access their communities. The charity also provides long-term equipment loans for those recovering from injury or surgery. Currently, Aberdeen City Council provides vital support, but this funding alone is insufficient to guarantee the service's future. Shopmobility Aberdeen is the only organisation offering long-term equipment loans in the North East and the only scheme north of Glasgow to hire out their wheelchair-accessible car.

The charity receives the majority of its funding from Aberdeen City Council.

Annexe B: SPICe briefing on PE2177



Brief overview of issues raised by the petition

The petitioner is calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to provide sustainable funding to organisations providing mobility equipment.

Reference is made to [Shopmobility Aberdeen](#) which has provided a range of services since 1992. The petitioner states that Aberdeen City Council provides funding but says that this funding alone is “insufficient to guarantee the service’s future”.

What is ShopMobility?

[ShopMobility UK](#) provides a nationwide network of centres which hire out mobility equipment such as:

- manual wheelchairs
- powered wheelchairs
- mobility scooters.

People can hire out the equipment to go shopping or visit local leisure facilities.

These services are available to anyone of any age (there may be restrictions for children using some equipment), whether their mobility issue is temporary or permanent.

Hire costs vary at each local Shopmobility Centre but they are typically very low or sometimes free.

There are ShopMobility outlets at locations throughout Scotland, often in shopping centres.

On the ShopMobility website it is possible to [search](#) for a centre, and Disability Information Scotland [lists other centres](#) in Scotland not available on that website.

How is ShopMobility funded?

ShopMobility UK is part of [Driving Mobility](#), which provides information, assessment and advice to people with mobility needs. Driving Mobility is supported by the Department for Transport in England, by the Welsh Government in Wales, by Disability Action in Northern Ireland, and funded by the [Motability Foundation](#) in Scotland.

The funding of ShopMobility in Scotland varies by location. It may come via local authorities, health boards, charitable donations and grants.

A grant is currently available for organisations to fund access to wheelchairs and mobility equipment - [Motability Foundation - Better Access to Wheelchairs and Mobility Aids](#) – the deadline is 15 December 2025.

Problems with funding

Over the years, there have been reports about ShopMobility centres having their funding cut or reduced by local authorities or health boards. Some examples are:

- [Shopmobility Highland - Mobile scooter service under threat after NHS board rejects funding](#) (STV News, 22 December 2024).
- [Shopmobility Moray - 'We might not exist by 2025': Shopmobility Moray's final plea to save charity](#) (Press and Journal, 19 October 2024). Now closed.
- Lothian Shopmobility - [Lothian Shopmobility charity to close after council scrap funding](#) (Edinburgh Evening News, 15 April 2019).

Scottish Parliament

'Shopmobility' schemes have been raised a limited number of times in the 26 years of the Scottish Parliament:

- One written question - [S2W-04518 refers to the funding of Highland Shopmobility in 2003](#).
- The [Official Report returned 16 references](#) to 'shopmobility' since the beginning of the Scottish Parliament. These have been in connection with the positive work of shopmobility schemes in local areas, or concerns about local funding.
- There have been [28 Motions](#) on ShopMobility, some of which congratulate a local 'shopmobility' service in their work as well as efforts to secure funding. There are some which express disappointment that funding has been removed.

What alternatives are there for individuals?

[Disability Information Scotland](#) provides a guide on how to access [Aids and Equipment](#) across Scotland.

The options available depend on an individual's needs and circumstances, and the type of aids and equipment that are required.

Some people may be able to obtain wheelchairs from their local NHS or council services, following an assessment. Each local area will have its own procedures.

Another option is to buy new or second-hand equipment.

Disability Information Scotland also list a range of [grants](#) that individuals can apply to assist with equipment.

Scottish Government

The Scottish Government does not directly fund ShopMobility schemes.

It has issued [guidance](#) on the responsibilities of NHS Scotland and Local Authorities, Integration Authorities, and their Housing and Education partners for the provision of equipment and adaptations (2023). It has also issued [Wheelchair provision - short-term loans: guidance](#) (23 March 2021). This is focused on people who need a wheelchair for a short period, following an assessment.

It previously had a policy in support of disabled people – [A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People: delivery plan](#). This ran from 2016 to 2021 and aimed to make equality of opportunity, access to services and independent living a reality for all disabled people in Scotland. A new [Disability Equality Plan](#) was published in June 2025. It has three priority areas:

- providing financial support for disabled households
- supporting disabled people's full inclusion and participation in their lives, communities, and Scotland
- improving mental health.

Nicki Georghiou

Senior Researcher

8 August 2025

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

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Annexe C: Written submission

Scottish Government written submission, 18 August 2025

PE2177/A: Support and fund mobility services

Does the Scottish Government consider the specific ask of the petition to be practical or achievable?

The Scottish Government has provided councils with a record £15.1 billion this year, a real terms increase of 5.5%.

In 2025-26, Aberdeen City Council will receive £505.1 million to support day to day services, which equates to an extra £37.5 million or an additional 8 per cent compared to 2024-25. Taken together with the decision to increase Council Tax by 9.85 per cent Aberdeen City Council will have an additional £50.1 million to support front line services in 2025-26.

However, local authorities are independent corporate bodies with their own powers and responsibilities and are entirely separate from the Scottish Government. Local and national government have committed to respecting each other's democratic mandates as part of the Verity House Agreement. It is up to individual local authorities to manage their day to day decision-making and allocate the total financial resources available to them based on local needs and priorities.

Decisions on local government budget allocations for future years are subject to the outcome of negotiations with COSLA, the results of which will be confirmed in future Scottish Budgets.

What, if any, action the Scottish Government is currently taking to address the issues raised by this petition, and is any further action being considered that will achieve the ask of this petition?

Scotland should be a country where all disabled people can live the lives they choose, with the support they need to thrive. Everyone should be able to participate fully in society, access their rights, and feel included in their communities.

To help achieve this, the Scottish Government is investing £2.5 million in 2025/26 to deliver the Disability Equality Plan—our blueprint for a fairer, more inclusive Scotland for disabled people.

Developed with Disabled People's Organisations and rooted in the social model of disability, the Plan focuses on removing societal barriers and improving access to services. It sets out targeted actions across key areas including mental health, independent living, financial support, digital inclusion, and energy.

Despite ongoing budget pressures, the Scottish Government remain committed to tackling discrimination and embedding disability competence across government—ensuring policies are designed with disabled people, not just for them.

A new £1 million fund will also draw on the expertise of DPOs and others to strengthen the support and services disabled people rely on.

Strong governance and transparency will underpin delivery, including the creation of a Disability Equality Delivery Group and an annual Cabinet takeover by disabled people. This Plan lays the foundation for long-term, systemic change—and marks an important step forward on our journey to a more equal Scotland.

Is there any further information the Scottish Government wish to bring to the Committee's attention, which would assist it in considering this petition?

We're continuing to embed equality and human rights across the Scottish Government and wider public sector. A new mainstreaming framework—including an action plan and practical toolkit—will set out clear steps to support this ambition. This will be complemented by work to enhance the effectiveness of the Public Sector Equality Duty as it operates in Scotland.

While Scotland has made good progress in advancing human rights, we want to go further. A new Human Rights Bill is planned for the next Parliamentary session, subject to the outcome of 2026 election. Proposals for the Bill include the incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) into Scots law, within the limits of devolved competence. To support development of the Bill, we have published a Discussion Paper to consolidate previous work and deepen engagement with stakeholders, building on our 2023 consultation and extensive dialogue with rights-holders and civil society.

Directorate for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights