

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 26 November 2025
18th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

PE2140: Introduce a parking badge for pregnant women

Introduction

Petitioner James Bruce

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce a new parking badge to assist women being able to get in and out their cars while they are pregnant, and for the initial months after their pregnancy.

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2140>

1. [The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on 2 April 2025](#). At that meeting, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Retail Consortium.
2. The petition summary is included in **Annexe A** and the Official Report of the Committee's last consideration of this petition is at **Annexe B**.
3. The Committee has received a new written submission from the Scottish Retail Consortium, which is set out in **Annexe C**.
4. [Written submissions received prior to the Committee's last consideration can be found on the petition's webpage](#).
5. [Further background information about this petition can be found in the SPICe briefing](#) for this petition.
6. [The Scottish Government gave its initial response to the petition on 12 February 2025](#).
7. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 31 signatures have been received on this petition.

Action

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

Clerks to the Committee
November 2025

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2140: Introduce a parking badge for pregnant women

Petitioner

James Bruce

Date Lodged

20 January 2025

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce a new parking badge to assist women being able to get in and out their cars while they are pregnant, and for the initial months after their pregnancy.

Background information

Too often pregnant women can return to a car park and find that the person that has parked next to them on the driver's side has parked uncomfortably close, making it a challenge for them to get into their car.

I believe that the Scottish Government should provide pregnant women with parking passes that last until a few months after their pregnancy. This would allow the woman time to recover and get used to having a child in the car, providing them with both peace of mind and ease of use in this very stressful time.

Annexe B: Extract from Official Report of last consideration of PE2140 on 2 April 2025

The Convener: Our final petition is PE2140, lodged by James Bruce. It calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce a new parking badge to assist women to be able to get in and out their cars—I do not suppose that the parking badge would do that in itself—when they are pregnant and in the initial months after their pregnancy.

The petition's background highlights that pregnant women often face difficulty getting in and out of their car when the vehicle next to them has parked too close. The SPICe briefing provides us with information on the blue badge scheme, which supports disabled people to access parking bays that are situated closer to where they want to go. Members will likely be aware that the blue scheme applies to on-street parking and does not generally apply in off-street car parks, such as supermarket car parks. The briefing also includes information about the use of parent-and-child parking bays by pregnant women, and insurance companies and organisations such as Mumsnet and Money Saving Expert have said that if you are heavily pregnant and need to park in a parent and child space then you should do so.

In its response to the petition, Transport Scotland states that the blue badge scheme is designed to allow disabled people who experience severe barriers in their mobility to park closer to their destination, and the eligibility criteria is based on functional mobility rather than diagnosed medical conditions. While pregnancy and postpartum recovery would not automatically qualify under the legislation, individuals may still apply if significant long-term complications arise. The Transport Scotland response goes on to say that there are no plans to create separate concessionary badges or widen the blue badge scheme's automatic eligibility criteria, and decisions to offer alternative parking concessions for off-street car parks are the relevant authority or landowner's responsibility.

Do colleagues have any suggestions as to how we might proceed?

Maurice Golden: To be blunt, we cannot go far on the petition, but some avenues to explore that might be helpful to the petitioner include writing to the Scottish Retail Consortium to find out what its member supermarkets' position is on pregnant women accessing disabled spaces or parent-and-child spaces on their premises.

The Convener: In doing so, we could note that the Scottish Government has said that it has no plans to create concessionary badges or widen the blue badge scheme's automatic eligibility criteria, so the scope of our ability to proceed is limited in that regard.

Let us take forward the inquiry, as Mr Golden suggested, and keep the petition open on that basis.

Members *indicated agreement.*

Annexe C: Written submission

Scottish Retail Consortium written submission, 14 July 2025

PE2140/B: Introduce a parking badge for pregnant women

Most stores located on high streets, in our towns and city centres, or in retail parks do not have customer parking of their own. Instead, parking used by customers (and indeed for other consumer-facing sectors) is often provided by local authorities or privately operated car parks, or in the case of retail parks usually by the landlord who owns/operates the retail park.