

Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland



Advising Scottish Ministers
on Accessible Travel

Annual Report 2023 to 2024



Easy Read Part 1



About this document



This is an Easy Read report.

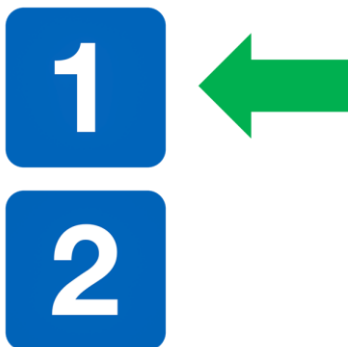


It will tell you what the **Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland** did from April 2023 to March 2024.



The **Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland** is an organisation that gives advice to the Scottish Government about disabled people's travel needs.

It is often called MACS for short.



This is Easy Read Part 1.

There is also an Easy Read Part 2.

Introduction by Linda Bamford



Linda Bamford is the **Convener** of MACS.

A **Convener** is a leader who brings people together to work as a team.



She says:

MACS staff have worked very hard this year.



We are very pleased that our **Triple A check** is now part of many Scottish Government plans.



The **Triple A check** makes sure that all public transport is:



- **Available** – easy to get
- **Accessible** – everyone can use it
- **Affordable** – it is not expensive



We think it is important that disabled people are not left out when Scotland chooses more **sustainable** ways to travel.

In this document **sustainable** means choosing transport that:



- uses less dirty fuel
- is kinder to the community
- is kinder to the environment



Linda says this is her last Annual Report because she is leaving MACS in December 2024.

She thanks everyone who has worked hard to make change happen.

How MACS works



MACS has a **vision**.

A **vision** is what we want to see happen.



MACS vision is for a Scotland where there is nothing to stop disabled people from travelling from one place to another.



Here are MACS 6 main jobs:



1. To give Scottish Ministers advice about the **policies** and laws for disabled people's travel needs.

And to give them advice about what is happening.



Policies are lists of rules and agreements.



2. To collect and use all the different kinds of experiences and thoughts from disabled people.



3. To help more disabled people in Scotland know about their travel choices and new things that may support them.



4. To work closely with the Scottish Government and make sure we are working for the same things as other groups and organisations – including **human rights** organisations.



Human rights are the freedoms that are protected in law.

They make sure we are treated fairly and they belong to everyone.

5. To tell the organisations who design and make things like:



- vehicles
- buildings
- timetables

about what disabled travellers need.



6. To look carefully at our work and check to see how it is helping and how we can do better.



To do this work, MACS has teams called workstreams.

MACS 5 big aims



MACS has 5 big aims.

Aim 1 is to work with the Scottish Government's promises to make Scotland more accessible and fairer to all.

This year MACS has:



- written information and updates called briefings, for Scottish Ministers



- made a new work plan



- taken part in Scottish Parliament sessions about islands, ScotRail and ferries



- worked with Transport to Healthcare groups



- worked with transport partnership organisations all over Scotland



- worked to help begin the **Rural Development Plan**



In this document **rural** means parts of Scotland that are far away from big towns and cities.



Aim 2 is to work with Scottish Government to make sure that making an **accessible transport** system is seen as very important.



Accessible travel is when transport is made so that everyone can use it.

This means things like pathways and toilets too.

This year MACS has:



- looked carefully at our work and checked it supports Scottish Government policies



- written information and updates called briefings, for Scottish Ministers



- met with Humza Yousaf MSP about Transport to Health and Social Care



- met with Fiona Hyslop MSP about the **Accessible Travel Framework**



The **Accessible Travel Framework** is Scotland's plan to make accessible travel easier.



- written to Fiona Hyslop MSP about problems with the **Driving Assessment Service**

The **Driving Assessment Service** offers people tests and support to drive vehicles.



- written to Shirley-Anne Somerville, the Cabinet Secretary, about the problem with Motability making too much profit



Aim 3 is to make sure that the right organisations know they must follow the laws and rules about accessible transport.

These organisations are:



- local authorities – like councils
- public organisations – like Police Scotland, NHS and schools
- transport providers – like bus companies, taxi companies, ScotRail, CalMac ferries and airports

This year MACS has:



- kept telling Transport Scotland staff, Scottish Government staff and group meetings about the laws
- written our answer to the consultation about Public Service Vehicles and their accessibility rules
- worked with Transport Scotland's Ferry Team to write plans
- worked with the Roads for All group on things like the pavement parking ban
- joined the Transport Scotland **Aviation** Accessibility Group and worked to make air travel easier for disabled people



In this document **aviation** means travel by plane or helicopter.



Aim 4 is to get more organisations to ask MACS to support them in making:

- new policies
- new plans
- new **contracts**



Contracts are agreements between an organisation and a company that is selling them services or goods.



MACS wants to make sure that accessibility is planned very well.

This year MACS has:



- worked more closely with Transport Scotland's planning team called Transport Strategy and Analysis



- getting to work early on in transport plans so that disabled people are included from the start



- organised special focus sessions called spotlight sessions – where Transport Scotland staff can talk about their work and get advice



- helped write a guide about sustainable travel to train stations



- helped write **Inclusive Design** Guidance for Busy Streets and made a list of changes needed to make it better



Inclusive Design means building places and spaces which everyone can use.



- joined Edinburgh Accessibility Commission meetings
- supported the Scottish Rural and Islands Transport Community



Aim 5 is to speak up about the things which will make the **National Transport Strategy 2** and the Accessible Travel Framework better for disabled people.



The **National Transport Strategy 2** is Scotland's plan to have a safe and accessible transport system.

This year MACS has:



- written a new work plan to help National Transport Strategy 2 action happen faster



- given advice to Transport Scotland to make Accessible Travel Framework work happen faster



- joined meetings with the **Just Transition** Commission to help write reports and give advice



Just Transition is our plan to work towards Scotland's target of putting less carbon into the air.

We call it Just Transition because the plans must work for everyone, including disabled people.



Please now read Part 2.

