



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01302

Name of petitioner

Colin Sloper

Petition title

Larbert rail noise and vibration

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that greater consideration is given to the problems of noise and vibration generated by increasing levels of heavy freight on the rail network, and to consider what action can be taken to encourage freight operators to use more 'track friendly' rolling stock.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Representations have been made to Network Rail, Scottish Power and the freight operator DB Schenker.

A Members Business debate took place in the Parliament on 11 June 2009.

Representation has also been made to the Scottish Government, The Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Petition background information

The background to this petition has arisen from the opening of the StirlingAlloa-Kinross railway line. The train operators who use the Forth Bridge to transport coal to Longannet Power Station transferred their route via Larbert when this new railway line was opened.

There is a need to petition the Parliament to highlight the issue to make sure that the train operators and Network Rail take appropriate action to alleviate the problems that I and the people of Larbert have been experiencing particularly at night, due to the noise and vibration of coal trains going through our community.

It is worth noting that Falkirk Council's Environmental Department has carried out a noise and vibration survey in the Larbert area. Of the two freight operators carrying coal, DB Schenker and Freightliner, the level of noise and vibration from the DB Schenker trains is almost double that of Freightliner. The reason for this is that Freightliner use coal wagons that are more 'track friendly'. The wagons being used by DB Schenker were banned from use on the UK rail network up until 1996.

The community in Larbert recognise the environmental benefits of switching coal transportation onto rail. However the impact this has on some of our communities affected by such heavy rail must be taken into account.

Given that a change of coal wagon would significantly reduce the problem being experienced by the people of Larbert, Network Rail, DB Schenker and Scottish Power should be questioned on why this reasonable course of action could not be taken. Technical evidence could also be taken from Falkirk Council's Environmental Health Department on the findings of its study.

Michael Matheson MSP has also held a Member's Business debate on the issue as well as holding two public meetings within the area. He has also been in contact with Network Rail, Scottish Power, DB Schenker and Falkirk Council.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01302>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

NO

How many signatures have you collected so far?

130

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion