



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01509**

### **Name of petitioner**

Lee Wright

### **Petition title**

Aberdeen to Inverness Rail Travel Improvement

### **Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to improve the safety, frequency and standards of rail transportation between Aberdeen and Inverness.

The North East of Scotland and the two most northerly cities in the UK deserve a better rail service.

### **Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

Currently there is no format for passengers to challenge the timetable or ensure that the service is not hamstrung by rolling stock being limited by Scotrail.

When I have been forced to stand or late I have contacted Scotrail and been given a nice apologetic e-mail and travel vouchers.

The Scottish Government set the minimum standards and requirements for rail carriage.

### **Petition background information**

See Scotrail Aberdeen to Inverness Timetable and Passengers' Charter.

Currently the Scotrail's timetable for the Aberdeen to Inverness line has trains with frequencies approaching 2 hour intervals, this is shocking when compared to the frequency of trains between Edinburgh and Glasgow which are 15minutes.

A service approaching 2 hourly intervals is not acceptable between two major cities in Scotland. Due to the area served and the route in question a regular hourly (maximum) service is required. Especially with the threat of HS2 hanging over our heads.

Passengers are often standing for up to 40 minutes before a seat becomes available, this is an unsafe act and is non-compliant with Scotrail's Passengers' Charter which states that passengers should stand for no more than 10 minutes.

The Scottish Government could improve this situation by banning the practice of charging for "carriage" and allow only "seated passengers" or "passengers where a seat is available" to be charged. This would encourage the rail operators to provide sufficient rolling stock to enable all passengers to be seated.

Currently the service between Aberdeen and Inverness cannot even be described as second class!

I am aware that there is a Transport Scotland action to improve this service, however it keeps getting usurped by projects in areas of higher population, eg. The Edinburgh Tram scheme.

#### Unique web address

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/AberdeentoinvernessRailTransportl](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/AberdeentoinvernessRailTransport)

#### Related information for petition

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

YES

**How many signatures have you collected so far?**

0

**Closing date for collecting signatures online**

13 / 03 / 2014

**Comments to stimulate online discussion**

All rail users on the Aberdeen to Inverness line should sign this to bring the state of the service to the attention of the Scottish Government