

Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE1736](#)

Main Petitioner: Mandy Hobbis on behalf of CatsMatter Campaign

Subject: Vehicle collisions involving cats to be made a reportable offence

Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce legislation to make the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to a cat to stop and report the accident to the police.

Background

Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 requires the driver of a mechanically propelled vehicle¹ which causes "damage" to any of the following:

- Horse
- Cattle
- Ass
- Mule
- Sheep
- Pig
- Goat
- Dog

To stop and give their name and address, the name and address of the owner of the vehicle and the identification marks of the vehicle to any person with reasonable grounds to require this. The duty to stop means to stop sufficiently long enough to exchange these details. If the driver does not give their name and address at the scene then they must report the incident to the police as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within 24 hours. Failure to comply with this requirement is an offence.

Scottish Government Action

The Road Traffic Act 1988, except so far as relating to the parking of vehicles on roads, is reserved.

¹ The term "mechanically propelled vehicle" is not defined in the Road Traffic Acts. It is generally accepted as covering vehicles propelled by any type of engine/motor and power source, including internal combustion, electric, hydrogen, hybrid and steam.

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has not considered this issue.

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August 2019

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