

PE1223/Z

Submission to PETITION # 1223 School Bus Safety

The original timescale was to ensure information was presented quickly & laid before the petitions committee. It has already over run its original release date I understand, which I think should have been October?

Questions

Would there be problem with extending this as regards a new petitions committee after the next election?

Or is this now set in stone? apart from any live updates required.

Whilst appreciating the time zone given was not perfect, the delay was not of our or the PPC's making.

I feel that if any LA has an interest in school bus safety & since this document has been live since approx 17th December.

Any LA worth its salt should of seen, read, digested & replied by now.

I read in the TLCs report as being

5.3 Responses

In total, there were twenty-four responses to the survey. Twenty-one responses were completed online, two were received via email, and one by post. **The sample represented fifteen of the thirty-two local authority areas in Scotland;** there were therefore multiple responses by some authorities

From this you can draw your own conclusions, mine would be a lack of interest or a fear of being found lacking in this particular area of school bus safety, but I find the response totally ignorant as regards school transport safety.

Maybe a case of "If we keep quite nothing will change"

When asked in the report "to what extent do you consider school transport safety to be a priority area within your LA"

10 WERE RATED HIGH - 5 RATED AS MEDIUM & JUST ABOVE & IN FACT ONE RATED ITSELF AS WORTH A LOW PRIORITY- equally shocking details.

So now Transport Scotland wishes to wait on a further response, that I doubt will be forthcoming in any case!

Some LAs don't want to know about change, which in fact falls in line with our own survey.

The LAs that did not reply to TRLs for what ever reason, will hardly be likely to respond a hurry, in the event they ever do.

Personally I would not like to see a timescale of 1 year attached to this document, nor in fact any further slippage, unless safeguards were in place.

If for some reason the PPC finds the survey results should be delayed, I would ask that this is completed by Easter, this surely is ample time for any LA to respond.

Agreement only as I have said under the following being solved first.

Would there be problem with extending it as regards a new petitions committee after the next election?

Or are these changes now set in stone?

I would of course agree with any decision the PPC came to, they are the experts.

This petition has now been ongoing for a great length of time with pitfalls, disappointments & hold ups, sorry but they do nothing to inspire great confidence in LAs or outside agencies.

I realise Transport Scotland has a hard job regarding this, but the point being , can they force any LA to reply, or simply request it?
Therein the difference lies regarding future hold ups.

Correspondence with the DOT informs me that that officials will be starting possible changes to existing legislation on the use & placement of signs & will also be discussing these changes with the CPT,& as soon as possible
All stakeholders views will be considered, this in itself will take time, we realise this.

Surely we can ensure that any Scottish decisions are in place by then, thereby allowing a safe & easy passage regarding any changes to be made to this live document regarding devolved powers etc.

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