

PE1223/JJJ

Petitioner Letter of 19 January 2015

PETITION 1223

Dear Committee members.

Once again this petition comes before you for consideration, yet in 8 years we have moved not one step further on signage.

As regards Transport Scotland, after all the expense providing the proclaimed tool kit, that every LA has seen, read, digested, after all the publicity since it was launched.

Only ONE local authority has adopted SOME of its safety procedures. That leaves 52 who have not bothered, plus the fact that bus companies have neither bothered.

Could Transport Scotland answer this question to yourselves ?
Why do some pupils travel to school safer than others?

Why are school pupils safer in Aberdeenshire, than any other LA
Seems some radical thinking out of the box is required.

This has all been discussed over the last almost 8 years, we are after this time no further forward as regards safety signage!!

I have traveled up to 4 times a year, from Aberdeenshire to Edinburgh in this time

School bus safety signs are not used appropriately nor with in guidelines set by Scottish Government or Transport Scotland.

DISPLAYED on the bus where they cannot be seen if a car is parked in front of the bus.

DISPLAYED behind Glass, where the effect of the sign is diluted due to refraction & refraction being affected, agreed by the Transport Road Laboratory. Displayed in the window, where lights are not in fact designed to fully shine, once again diluting its affect.

Behind tinted glass, which again dilutes its proper capabilities to display properly

DISPLAYED when not on the school run, thereby diluting the effect it has on other drivers, which is its main purpose.

The signs **DISPLAYED** are still the smallest they can be, legally there is no size recommended, they can be as large as safety requires

The only council who has attempt to rectify this to a point is Aberdeenshire .

WHY would a front sign need to be smaller then the rear sign, its function is surely the same, to inform advancing drivers of possible danger

There are some really safety conscious bus operators who have the pupils safety in mind, there are others who don't care.

I have been told often by bus operators that until it's law, nothing will change as Transport Scotland's recommendations are simply that, & have no basis in law.

That some Local Authorities have no understanding of the guidelines on signage, which greatly worries me & should yourselves.

I see on a regular basis signs obscured in the windows by other signs, half covered, set so high they are out of a driver's vision.

The law states "should be clearly visible "

So as already said, we have school pupils, travelling to school under different safety procedures.

So obviously there is no safety protocol, no safety procedures, no safety assessment by any LA or Bus company that affects pupils safety on a school bus, if this were the case, it would have been actioned by now.

Are passengers on normal buses covered by a safety assessment, my presumption would be YES.

So why not school buses.

Attached are photos of signage that are obscured by other signage from various areas of Scotland.

One set so far down, that one car in front of the bus would render it blind to other drivers.

One with the norm that is used on many, simply laid on the dash board, how can any driver see this warning sign.

Two with the sign obscured & set so high out of a normal drivers reaction area. I of course welcome the fact that any other meeting with Transport Scotland will not be held within the concourse of Aberdeenshire Railway station.



