

July 2018

Transport Bill

The Scottish Government has [introduced](#) a Transport Bill to the Scottish Parliament. It covers a wide range of transport issues that impact on UNISON members as well as the citizenship issues it raises for UNISON members who use the roads, public transport and the canals.

The main provisions include:

- The creation, regulation and enforcement of low emission zones. The aim is to improve air quality, mainly in cities, by cutting vehicle emissions. A number of local authorities are planning to introduce such zones. UNISON submitted [evidence](#) to the parliamentary inquiry on air quality supporting the concept, albeit with caveats in relation to the need for better public transport and recognition of the need for public service workers to use cars for their work.
- Extending the powers of local authorities to run buses and develop bus partnership plans. The aim is to allow councils to act more flexibly to improve services, either by working with bus companies or by stepping in and running services themselves. Bus journeys have been in decline as fares increase and critics argue that the Bill will allow private operators to cherry pick the profitable routes. A [recent poll](#) shows clear public support for buses to be run by public operators. Only 15% of Scots believe they should be run by private companies.
- There will be powers to extending existing ticketing arrangements and schemes to include connecting services. Scottish Ministers will have the power to set a national technological standard for smart ticketing and set up the National Smart Ticketing Advisory Board.
- The Bill will introduce a national ban on pavement and double parking and make it easier for local authorities to enforce the ban. There will be the power to grant some limited exemptions in relation to the delivery of goods. Councils will have to account for the revenue generated separately.
- The Bill has another go at regulating road works which aims to create a regulatory environment which encourages getting road work reinstatements right first time. There will be better information about road works, and a consistent approach to safety at road works sites regardless of who is carrying them out.
- Ministers will be able to vary the size of the Board of Scottish Canals in order to ensure that the Board has the skills needed to oversee the varied work of the organisation. One aim is to help to strengthen its capacity to support economic regeneration. Ironically, Scottish Canals has been [criticised](#) recently for focusing on regeneration rather than on keeping the canals open.

Branches are encouraged to consult the members concerned and forward views to the Bargaining and Campaigns Team (f.montgomery@unison.co.uk) by 3 September 2018.

For more information please contact UNISON's Bargaining and Campaigns team on 0141 342 2811, or email d.watson@unison.co.uk

**bargaining &
campaigns**
team

Follow us on

