



Department for Transport

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It is extremely disappointing to see that the Glasgow Subway will not meet the deadline to provide accessible trains for every passenger and every journey by the end of the year.

As an operator you have had ten years to prepare for the 31 December 2019 deadline set in the Rail Vehicle Accessibility (Non-Interoperable Rail System) Regulation 2010. It is deeply frustrating that disabled passengers will be waiting until 2022 for new, compliant trains to be fully introduced.

Let me be clear that we are absolutely committed to ensuring that all passengers can travel by rail with ease and confidence. The Secretary of State's powers to permit non-compliant vehicles to continue in operation have not been used lightly and should never result in detriment to the quality of disabled passengers' journeys.

However, our hand has been forced by a failure to meet this deadline despite a significant period of time for you to prepare. Without an exemption, it would become necessary to remove non-compliant trains from service – which would close the Glasgow Subway for at least a year.

To protect the needs of disabled passengers, I'm requesting that you provide evidence of your commitment to your timetable for removing the older trains from service and to ensuring that passengers who need assistance to travel can get the help they need when they need it, and an assurance that SPT is actively prioritising the needs of disabled passengers on your network. I have copied this letter to Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity for his information.

My position on these matters is unequivocal. You must urgently address the issue of providing accessible rail carriages. Delivering an accessible service for every passenger on every rail journey is essential to creating an inclusive and accessible railway. It must not be delayed any longer.

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON