



# ICI Committee call for evidence on the Procurement Reform Bill

## Transform Scotland evidence paper

29 November 2013

### 1 About Transform Scotland

- 1.1 Transform Scotland is the national sustainable transport alliance. We campaign for a more sensible transport system, one less dependent on unsustainable modes such as the car, the plane and road freight, and more reliant on sustainable modes like walking, cycling, public transport, and freight by rail or sea. We are a membership organisation bringing together rail, bus and shipping operators; local authorities; national environment and conservation organisations; local environment and transport campaign groups; and individual supporters.

### 2 Scope of our response

- 2.1 We are limiting our evidence to matters directly related to our organisation's scope: sustainable transport.

### 3 General comments

- 3.1 We are surprised at the absence of reference to the transport sector in the Bill given both its overall size within the economy and its very considerable contribution to climate change emissions.
- 3.2 We note that the Bill makes, at section 31, provision to amend the *Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009* regarding the procurement of recycled and recyclable products. While we welcome this section of the Bill, given the greater problems provided by transport sector emissions compared to emissions from the waste sector, we would suggest that an opportunity should be taken to widen the scope of the Bill in order to make provision for procurement provisions which could help reduce transport emissions.
- 3.3 We would highlight the report we published on 27 November 2013, *Doing their Duty?*, which highlighted the general lack of progress being made by the Scottish public sector in moving towards sustainable transport.<sup>1</sup> The report highlighted that:
- At least 60% of Scottish Public Bodies have no plans for reducing their travel by means of implementing a Travel Plan. This is deeply disappointing given that they have been advised to do so, and offered practical support to do so, for well over a decade.
  - There is some evidence that Public Bodies' vehicle fleets are moving towards the acquisition of Lower Emission Vehicles. It is unclear, however, whether this is due to the impact of the Public Bodies Duty (or whether this is due to the general trend towards lower emission vehicles as a result of European legislation).
  - Public Bodies are overwhelmingly choosing air travel (74% of journeys) over rail travel (26%) for long-distance travel between Edinburgh/Glasgow and London, despite the former being substantially more polluting.
- 3.4 While the adoption of Travel Plans is not obviously a decision relevant to the procurement process, the decision whether to purchase/lease vehicles is clearly relevant to procurement, as are decisions relating to the purchase of long-distance travel (rail or air).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.transformscotland.org.uk/doing-their-duty-new-report.aspx>

## 4 Proposed Bill amendments

- 4.1 We consider that given the importance of the transport sector to climate change emissions reduction, and the general lack of progress from the public sector in reducing emissions, that attention should be given to this matter.
- 4.2 We suggest that the Committee explore the potential for introducing an amendment to the Bill, under Section 31, specifying duties on Public Bodies to ensure that:
- Average vehicle fleet emissions are below a given level of gCO<sub>2</sub>/km, in line with the methodology used by European law on emissions standards.
  - Emissions from business travel are progressively reduced, in line with existing guidance to Public Bodies under the *Public Bodies Climate Change Duties*.
- 4.3 We would be happy to assist the Committee with any further advice required to frame such proposed amendments to the Bill.

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Transform Scotland is the national sustainable transport alliance, campaigning for a more sustainable and socially-just transport system. Our membership includes bus, rail and shipping operators; local authorities; national environment and conservation groups; consultancies; and local transport campaigns. Transform Scotland Limited is a registered Scottish charity (SC041516).

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