

**Document 1**

**From: (REDACTED)**

**Sent:** 25 August 2022 16:34

**To:** 'richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk' <richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk>

**Subject:** Inch Rail Station - Accessibility

Please see attached correspondence from Transport Scotland, relating to Inch Rail Station.

Regards

**(REDACTED)** Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency  
*Còmh dhail Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmh dhail*

Rail Accessibility & Policy  
Transport Scotland

Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4  
0HF

[TS\\_Rail\\_Directorate\\_Communications@transport.gov.scot](mailto:TS_Rail_Directorate_Communications@transport.gov.scot)



Richard Thomson MP  
Unit F6 – Enterprise Centre  
Aberdeen Energy Park  
Exploration Drive  
Bridge of Don  
AB23 8GX

Our ref:  
Access for All

Date:  
25 August 2022

[richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Richard

I am the Rail Accessibility & Policy Manager within Transport Scotland and I write in regard to Inch Rail station which I believe falls within your constituency area.

You may be aware that rail accessibility is a matter reserved to the UK Government (UKG). The Department for Transport (DfT), on behalf of the UKG lead the Access for All Programme which seeks to deliver accessibility improvements at stations which have been successfully considered against the DfT specified criteria. Proposals for Scottish stations must be routed through Transport Scotland and agreed by the Minister for Transport before submission to DfT.

Transport Scotland has worked closely with the rail industry, considered input from internal and external stakeholders to compile the list of stations for nomination for the next rail funding period (2024-2029). This Minister for Transport has considered and agreed the stations proposed for nomination.

As part of the criteria for the next rail funding period (Control Period 7, 2024 – 2029) any stations which are being nominated are required to be supported in writing by the constituency MP.

Accessibility issues at Inch have been considered and as such Transport Scotland seeks to nominate the station for consideration of funding.

If successful the improvements would open up the opportunity to access rail services for those in your constituency who currently experience difficulty doing so as well as delivering benefits to the wider community.

Whilst the deadline for nominations is 16 September 2022, if you could please respond within 14 days of the date of this letter, confirming your support for this nomination, this will ensure sufficient time for the collation and submission of all responses. Please email your response to [TS\\_Rail\\_Directorate\\_Communications@transport.gov.scot](mailto:TS_Rail_Directorate_Communications@transport.gov.scot)

Regards

**(REDACTED)** Rail Accessibility Manager

## Document 2

**From:** (REDACTED)

**Sent:** 14 September 2022 11:11

**To:** (REDACTED) @parliament.uk

**Subject:** FW: Inch Rail Station - Accessibility

Good morning (REDACTED)

Thank you for speaking with me earlier. As requested I am resending the request seeking Mr Thomson's support for the nomination of Inch to the Department of Transport for Access for All funding.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

(REDACTED)

(REDACTED)

Rail Accessibility Manager

Rail Directorate

Transport Scotland

BlackBerry: (REDACTED)

(REDACTED)@[transport.gov.scot](mailto:transport.gov.scot)

I am currently working from home, I can be contacted by e-mail or on my mobile as listed above.

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency  
*Còmhdaill Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmhdaill*

**From:** (REDACTED)

**Sent:** 25 August 2022 16:34

**To:** 'richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk' <[richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)>

**Subject:** Inch Rail Station - Accessibility

Please see attached correspondence from Transport Scotland, relating to Inch Rail Station.

Regards

(REDACTED)

Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



### **Document 3**

**From:** Richard Thomson MP <[richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)>

**Sent:** 14 September 2022 17:10

**To:** (REDACTED)

**Subject:** Re: Insch Rail Station - Accessibility (Case Ref: R16692)

Dear (REDACTED)

Please find attached a further letter from Richard in support of the application for Insch Station.

Yours sincerely,

Graham

(REDACTED)

Senior Caseworker for

**Richard Thomson MP**

Member of Parliament for Gordon

address – Unit F6, Enterprise Centre, Aberdeen Energy Park, Exploration Drive, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8GX

t. 020 3545 2236

e. [richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)

[www.richardthomsonmp.com](http://www.richardthomsonmp.com)

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter at [www.richardthomsonmp.com/news](http://www.richardthomsonmp.com/news)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House  
58 Port Dundas Road  
Glasgow G4 0HF

Our Ref: RI6692

13 September 2022

Dear [Redacted]

**Re: Accessibility improvement proposals for Insch Rail Station**

I am very pleased to support the proposals for significant accessibility improvements at Insch Rail Station, which is located in my Gordon Constituency.

Insch and the surrounding area is popular location with growth in the local communities. Many people working in Aberdeen live in the area providing a steady flow of rail users accessing Insch Station.

However, there are accessibility issues for travellers with mobility challenges, such as those who use wheelchairs or other walking aids. It is also challenging for families with buggies for children and for cyclists to move between platforms.

The situation in Insch is made all the more difficult with the non-stepped access between platforms being via the adjacent level crossing. This creates the difficulty for those with mobility issues that if the crossing barrier is lowered then there is no access except via the footbridge and that is, of course, when trains are in the station and when foot traffic between platforms is at its peak.

As with other stations in Aberdeenshire, there is significant growth potential for the passenger numbers on the line. With major Net Zero targets in place, investment in the station is much needed if we are to see the modal shift from road to rail that will help to tackle carbon reduction and reduce congestion on our roads.

Access for All funding for major accessibility improvements will be welcomed by many in Insch and the surrounding area and will also benefit people visiting the area from further afield.

I trust that this endorsement of the funding bid will be well received and I sincerely hope it will be successful.

Yours sincerely

Richard Thomson MP  
Member of Parliament for Gordon

Constituency Office – Unit 6, Enterprise Centre, Aberdeen Energy Park, Exploration Drive,  
Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8GX

[richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)  
Tel: 020 3545 2236

---

## **Document 4**

**From:** (REDACTED)

**Sent:** 25 August 2022 16:28

**To:** 'richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk' <richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk>

**Subject:** Inverurie Rail Station - Accessibility

Please see attached correspondence from Transport Scotland, relating to Inverurie Rail Station.

Regards

(REDACTED) Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency  
*Còmh dhail Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmh dhail*



Richard Thomson MP  
Unit F6 – Enterprise Centre  
Aberdeen Energy Park  
Exploration Drive  
Bridge of Don  
AB23 8GX

Our ref:  
Access for All

Date:  
25 August 2022

[richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Richard

I am the Rail Accessibility & Policy Manager within Transport Scotland and I write in regard to Inverurie Rail station which I believe falls within your constituency area.

You may be aware that rail accessibility is a matter reserved to the UK Government (UKG). The Department for Transport (DfT), on behalf of the UKG lead the Access for All Programme which seeks to deliver accessibility improvements at stations which have been successfully considered against the DfT specified criteria. Proposals for Scottish stations must be routed through Transport Scotland and agreed by the Minister for Transport before submission to DfT.

Transport Scotland has worked closely with the rail industry, considered input from internal and external stakeholders to compile the list of stations for nomination for the next rail funding period (2024-2029). This Minister for Transport has considered and agreed the stations proposed for nomination.

As part of the criteria for the next rail funding period (Control Period 7, 2024 – 2029) any stations which are being nominated are required to be supported in writing by the constituency MP.

Accessibility issues at Inverurie have been considered and as such Transport Scotland seeks to nominate the station for consideration of funding.

If successful the improvements would open up the opportunity to access rail services for those in your constituency who currently experience difficulty doing so as well as delivering benefits to the wider community.

Whilst the deadline for nominations is 16 September 2022, if you could please respond within 14 days of the date of this letter, confirming your support for this nomination, this will ensure sufficient time for the collation and submission of all responses. Please email your response to [TS\\_Rail\\_Directorate\\_Communications@transport.gov.scot](mailto:TS_Rail_Directorate_Communications@transport.gov.scot)

Regards  
(REDACTED) Rail Accessibility Manager



## **Document 5**

**From:** Richard Thomson MP <[richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)>

**Sent:** 14 September 2022 09:58

**To:** TS Rail Directorate Communications

<[TS\\_Rail\\_Directorate\\_Communications@transport.gov.scot](mailto:TS_Rail_Directorate_Communications@transport.gov.scot)>

**Subject:** Inverurie Rail Station Access For All Bid - MP Supporting Letter (Case Ref: RI6692)

**FAO: (REDACTED), Rail Accessibility & Policy Manager, Transport Scotland**

Dear **(REDACTED)**,

Thank you for your recent email and attached letter to Richard Thomson MP regarding Transport Scotland's Access for All funding bid.

First of all, my apologies for the delay in responding, albeit still within the bid timescale. Regrettably I took ill before I had a chance to deal with the correspondence and I have only just returned to work after 2 weeks off sick.

A letter endorsing the bid from Richard is now attached for your use.

I trust that this is of assistance and sincerely hope that the bid will be successful. I would be grateful if you were able to keep Mr Thomson informed of the plans as they progress.

Yours sincerely,

**(REDACTED)**,

Senior Caseworker for

***Richard Thomson MP***

*Member of Parliament for Gordon*

*address – Unit F6, Enterprise Centre, Aberdeen Energy Park, Exploration Drive, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8GX*

*t. 020 3545 2236*

e. [richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)

[www.richardthomsonmp.com](http://www.richardthomsonmp.com)

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter at [www.richardthomsonmp.com/news](http://www.richardthomsonmp.com/news)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House  
58 Port Dundas Road  
Glasgow G4 0HF

Our Ref: RI6692

13 September 2022

Dear [Redacted]

**Re: Accessibility improvement proposals for Inverurie Rail Station**

I am very pleased to support the proposals for significant accessibility improvements at Inverurie Rail Station, which is located in my Gordon Constituency.

Inverurie is a very traditional railway station, which brings with it a degree of charm with its older station building architecture and like many stations has seen old station buildings repurposed into good going businesses, bringing additional life and vibrancy.

However, the accessibility between platforms is extremely challenging for travellers with mobility challenges, such as those who use wheelchairs or other walking aids. It is also challenging for families with buggies for children and for cyclists to move between platforms.

Inverurie is a significant market town and is rapidly expanding as a desirable commuter area for nearby Aberdeen. This provides significant growth potential for the passenger numbers on the line. With major Net Zero targets in place, investment in the station is much needed if we are to see the modal shift from road to rail that will help to tackle carbon reduction and reduce congestion on our roads.

The route from one platform to another without using steps is also a significant distance, especially for people with mobility issues and is a discouragement to them using rail, as well as highlighting equality issues at what is already a busy station with growing usage.

Access for All funding for major accessibility improvements will be welcomed by many in the Inverurie and surrounding area and will also benefit people visiting the area from further afield.

I trust that this endorsement of the funding bid will be well received and I sincerely hope it will be successful.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Thomson MP**

Member of Parliament for Gordon

Constituency Office – Unit 6, Enterprise Centre, Aberdeen Energy Park, Exploration Drive,  
Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8GX

[richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:richard.thomson.mp@parliament.uk)

Tel: 020 3545 2236

---

