

# Edinburgh Cyclists Claim Over £1.2m Tram Line Compensation

**Author :** Emma McAndrew

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Cyclists in Edinburgh have been awarded over £1.2m in compensation after sustaining injuries on the capital's tram lines, according to new data.

A freedom of information request (FOI) reveals that 196 successful claims have been made against Edinburgh City Council since 2012, by cyclists who had accidents on the tram lines.

The £1,262,141 compensation claim covers incidents such as cyclists falling off their bikes, their wheels getting stuck between tram tracks, and bikes being damaged because of the lines.



442 accidents involving cyclists and tram lines have occurred in the city centre (c) Wiktoria Orlicka

A representative for [Spokes](#) Lothian Cycle Campaign, Ian Maxwell, says: "It's a real shame that it's necessary to have to compensate people for accidents. It hopefully won't continue at this level.

"There are more things that the council has agreed to do but still have to implement in the way of improving the layout of the surrounding areas of tram tracks."

The research reveals that the majority of the 442 accidents involving cyclists and tram lines have occurred in the city centre areas of Princes Street and Haymarket.

Mr Maxwell says that although slight improvements have been made in this area, there is more that can be done to ensure that tram crossings are safer for cyclists.

He says: "If you look at Haymarket Station, there is now painted guidance for cyclists showing the suggested ways that they should approach crossing tram lines so that they're crossing as near as possible to a right angle.

"It's the acute angles that are the most dangerous for cyclists as it is most likely that they will lead to slippage or narrow wheels getting caught in tram lines."

He adds: "We're not against trams, but it would be better if they were done in a way that does not increase the risk to cyclists on Edinburgh city streets."

Edinburgh City Council is now in phase three of their [Trams to Newhaven](#) project, which aims to improve safety for cyclists on Edinburgh's roads.

The project commenced in 2017 and strives to create clearer road markings for cyclists and improve road layouts to award cyclists greater priority.

Transport and Environment Convener, [Councillor Scott Arthur](#), admits that the volume of claims made against Edinburgh City Council is "concerning," but is confident that numbers will improve by the end of the project.

Councillor Arthur says: "It is important to note that some of these claims pre-date the opening of

the line and the many safety improvements made since then.

"Nonetheless, the number of claims submitted is concerning to me.

"The Council is now in the process of completing phase three of the project, which includes significant changes to the road layouts at six junctions to give greater priority to people on bikes."