

A guide to the right to free and concessionary transport for disabled asylum seekers, refugees and refused applicants in the UK

Disabled and older people throughout the UK are entitled to free or concessionary travel under the Transport Act 2000. This entitlement is not dependent on their immigration status. Concessionary travel helps disabled refugees get to appointments, meet friends and family, get involved in the local community and explore their new home, all of which improve wellbeing and reduce isolation.

Under the Transport Act (2000) a disabled person entitled to statutory transport concessions is:

- 1) someone blind or partially sighted
- 2) someone profoundly or severely deaf
- 3) someone without speech
- 4) someone who has an impairment, long-term health condition or injury, which has a substantial and long-term impact on walking
- 5) someone who does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms
- 6) someone who has a learning disability 'which includes significant impairment'
- 7) People who, if applying for a driving licence would be refused due to 'physical fitness'

This entitlement is UK-wide but is applied differently in each country. Schemes are managed by local and unitary authorities or by 'areas'. **People can be asked for proof of address to show they are 'ordinarily resident' but do not have to prove nationality or 'status'. Some schemes ask to see receipt of benefits to assess if someone is entitled, however, the Transport Act do not require someone to be in receipt of any particular benefit to get concessionary travel.**

Some schemes provide concessions to a broader group of disabled people in their allocation policy than the Transport Act describes. There are also non-statutory concessionary and accessible transport options, for example in London disabled refugees can also access Community Transport, Taxicard and Dial-a-Ride.

Local **Community Transport** schemes and **Shopmobility** services can explain what is available locally. Local **Deaf and Disabled Peoples Organisations (DDPOs)**, (www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/directory/listing) or **Age UK** (www.ageuk.org.uk/about-us/local-partners) should be able provide more information and help applying for this entitlement. There are also organisations that represent transport users and disabled transport users; for example **Transport For All** in London www.transportforall.org.uk that campaigns for accessible transport in London and the **Bus Users Group** www.bususers.org.

| UK wide | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Entitlement | What it gives holder | How do they assess entitlement | From where |
| Disabled Persons Railcard | The disabled person and an adult companion get 33% off rail fares. An annual card costs £20 | People who have a visual or hearing impairment, have epilepsy, receive PIP, attendance allowance, mobility component of DLA or higher or lower personal care, use the Motability scheme | Disabled Person's Railcard Office, PO Box 6613, Arbroath DD11 9AN |
| Automatic rail travel discounts | 34% discount on single and a 50% discount on return Anytime Fares. | Wheelchair users and visually impaired people are entitled to automatic reduction. 50% discount if remain in wheelchair. | Quote D50 at the ticket office when buying the ticket. |
| Senior Railcard | 1/3 off Off Peak and dvance fares. | Anyone 60+ with birth certificate or passport (any nationality) or UK driving licence. Online requires British passport number | £30 a year at the staffed railway ticket office. |
| Patient Transport | Free travel to NHS hospitals | People with long-term health conditions impacting on mobility and with low income attending hospital appointments | Individual NHS Hospital Trusts |
| Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme | Reimbursement for travel to NHS appointments | People with long-term health conditions impacting on mobility and with low income attending NHS appointments | Apply for HTCS on the NHS Low Income Scheme |



HEAR is the network of equality and human rights organisations and community groups in London
HEAR Equality and Human Rights Network, charity number 168591 www.hearequality.org.uk @HEAR_Network

| London | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Entitlement | What it gives holder | How do they assess entitlement | From where |
| Freedom Pass | Free travel on all London Transport services. Some trains restricted to after 9.30am | Disabled people, under the Transport Act, living in London. Many local authorities accept others too; e.g. those with mental health service needs | Check with Local Authority for allocation and assessment. |
| 60+ Oyster | Free travel on all TfL and some national rail services. | People older than 60 living in London | Transport For London (TfL) |
| Taxicard (plus some boroughs Capital Call) | Up to 104 free black cab journeys a year. | Automatic for people on standard and enhanced mobility PIP, higher rate mobility of DLA, who are blind or severe sight impaired. Each Local Authority has a different allocations and assessment policy. | Local Authority |
| Dial a Ride | Free door to door transport | Automatic for Taxicard members, people on standard and enhanced mobility PIP, higher rate mobility of DLA, higher rate Attendance Allowance, registered blind or partially sighted, 85 or older. If none of the above paper-based mobility assessment. | Transport for London (TfL) |
| Older Persons Freedom Pass | Free travel on all London Transport. Some after 9.30am | If you were 60+ on 6 April 2010 rising gradually to 65 on 5 April 2020. | London Councils proof of age and residence |
| England | | | |
| Entitlement | What it gives holder | How do they assess entitlement | From where |
| Concessionary Bus Travel Card | Free travel on local buses between 9.30am-11pm weekdays, all day weekends/bank holidays | Disabled people on higher rate mobility on DLA, awarded at least eight points on either 'moving around' and/or communicating verbally on PIP | County council or unitary authority |
| Northern Ireland | | | |
| Entitlement | What it gives holder | How do they assess entitlement | From where |
| SmartPass | Free travel for 60+, 'registered blind', 50% off for disabled people | Half fares for disabled people on higher rate mobility of DLA or who are visually impaired. Proof of 3 months residency in North Ireland. | At staffed Translink bus or rail stations |
| All Ireland Free Travel Scheme | Free travel on all of Ireland (including NI) | People resident in Northern Ireland for at least 3 months and over 65 | At staffed Translink stations |
| Scotland | | | |
| Entitlement | What it gives holder | How do they assess entitlement | From where |
| National Entitlement Card | Free travel on local and long distance buses | Disabled people on higher mobility or higher/middle care component on DLA, on Attendance Allowance, on PIP, who have a Blue Badge, who have a mental illness, who have a terminal illness, who have a progressive degenerative condition, who have lost one or more limbs | Local Authority or Strathclyde Partnership for Transport |
| Wales | | | |
| Entitlement | What it gives holder | How do they assess entitlement | From where |
| Smartcard | Free bus travel. This card can also be used on rail services where and when bus services are limited. | People with sight loss, are deaf, cannot speak, have an impairment with a substantial and long term adverse affect on ability to walk, are without arms or have long term loss of the use of both arms, have a cognitive impairment, would be refused a driving license, have a cardiac, locomotor, renal or neurological condition, receive the mobility component of PIP, Higher Rate Mobility Component of DLA. | Local Authorities |