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Gweithio ar gyfer trafndiaeth integredig yng Ngogledd Cymru
Working for integrated transport in North Wales

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: **Cllr Mike Priestley**
Rhif ffôn / Telephone: **01352 704561**
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **Cllr MP/CLH**

12th November 2013

William Powell AC/AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of the 23 October regarding the petition received from Mr Mark Griffiths on concessionary fares eligibility criteria.

The Cerdyn Cymru concessionary bus pass is administered by local authorities on behalf of Welsh Government (WG), utilising powers contained in the Transport Act 2000. The statutory definitions for disability are set out in section 146 of the 2000 Act. Each local authority in Wales is required to issue a bus pass to eligible persons as defined in the most up to date version of the Eligibility Guidance issued by Welsh Government. The latest version of 'A Common Approach to Eligibility' being in force since 1 April this year. This guidance is largely unchanged from previous versions which reflect the 'Mandatory Travel Concessions (Reimbursement Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2001' and contains seven categories of disability which meet the criteria for eligibility to receive a bus pass.

As it stands the concession is available to persons over the age of 60 and persons with certain disabilities as specified in the guidance. For the concession to be extended to the poor and vulnerable it would require WG to amend the eligibility criteria. This could be done by utilising section 147 of the Transport Act 2000, which gives the Welsh Government powers to amend section 145 and 146 of the Act to extend the concession to 'persons of a specified description'.

Any decision to extend the scheme eligibility and as such extend the scope of the reimbursement criteria for local authorities would need to be taken by the Welsh Government.

William Powell AC/AM
12 November 2013

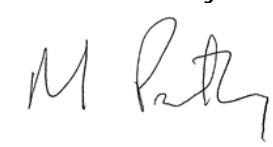
In addition there are also concessions available on rail services for Senior, Disabled and Young People through the UK Wide Railcard schemes. We accept that there are differences in availability of concessions between the rail and bus networks and ideally there would be similar concessions on each network. We recognise the substantial additional costs this would generate, which would be difficult to accommodate in the current financial climate.

We believe that there is scope for a review of the eligibility criteria for concessionary travel. This is, however, for the Welsh Government to consider given the current legislative position.

Some analysis has been done of concessionary schemes in other parts of the World and some information on different eligibility schemes is attached to this response for information only.

TAITH would be pleased to contribute further to any further debate on concessionary fares eligibility within Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Priestley', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Councillor Mike Priestley
Chair of Taith

Place	Persons 60 to 64	Persons 65 and over	Persons 16 to 18	Disabled Persons	Low Income Persons
Wales	Free	Free	limited discount (+ some discounts for students)	Free	No discount
Northern Ireland	Free	Free (also to and within Republic of Ireland if over 65)	No Discount	50% discount	No Discount
Belgrade, Serbia	65% discount for women only	Free	Approx. 65% discount for students	65% discount or free (depending upon type)	65% discount (registered unemployed)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA	No discount	Free	Student discounts (depends on institution)	Approx. 50% discount	No discount
Columbus, Ohio USA	No discount	50% discount	Summer youth pass and student programmes	50% discount	No discount
Longueil, Quebec (Canada)	No discount	40% discount (some municipalities have 80% discount at off peak)	40% discount (students only)	No discount	No discount
Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada)	No discount	36% discount	36% discount (students only)	36% discount	No discount
Lille, France	No discount	20% discount to free (depending on income and ticket type)	20% to 75% discount (depending on income and ticket type)	No discount (blind free)	50% for those receiving a common benefit (free for unemployed)
Dresden, Germany	20% discount on day tickets (only)	20% discount on day tickets (only)	25% discount	Free	No discount

Dublin, Ireland	No discount	Free	37% discount (students only)	Free	No Discount
Christchurch, New Zealand	No discount	Free (Off peak only)	50% discount	No Discount	No Discount
Canberra, Australia	No discount	50% discount to age 75, free 75 and over	50% discount (students only)	No discount (blind free)	No Discount
Liberec, Czech Republic	No discount	60% discount	50% discount (students only)	60% discount	No Discount