



## Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

**Petition Number:** [PE1549](#)

**Main Petitioner:** Mr Alan Clark Young

**Subject:** Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ensure that all war veterans that are in receipt of a War Disablement Pension can get Concessionary Travel passes.

### Background

A Scotland-wide concessionary bus travel scheme for older and disabled people was launched on 1 April 2006. This scheme operates under the provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005 and is administered and funded by Transport Scotland.

The scheme provides free travel on nearly all local and long distance bus services within Scotland and between Scotland and Berwick-upon-Tweed and Scotland and Carlisle. Eligible residents of Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles receive two free return ferry trips between their home island and the Scottish mainland every year. The scheme is open to anyone who meets one or more of the following criteria:

#### **Older People: Persons aged 60 and over who are resident in Scotland**

**Disabled People:** Persons of fare paying age, resident in Scotland, who are in receipt of one or more of the following benefits or awards:

- the higher rate of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance
- the higher or middle rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance
- Attendance Allowance
- Personal Independence Payment.

Also, persons of fare paying age resident in Scotland who:

- hold a Blue Badge
- are profoundly or severely deaf
- are blind or partially sighted
- have been told not to drive based on medical grounds

- have a mental illness, learning difficulty or personality disorder that is recognised under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and has lasted for more than a year and they need to travel to health or social care appointments as part of their treatment activities, care or a rehabilitation programme.
- have a terminal illness
- have a progressive degenerative condition, such as Parkinson's Disease, that impedes their mobility
- have lost one or both legs, both arms or an arm and a leg
- are an injured veteran with mobility problems who has received a lump sum benefit under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme within tariff levels 1 - 8 (inclusive) and the Secretary of State certifies that they have a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking
- receive a War Disablement Pension Mobility Supplement

### **Scottish Government Action**

The Scottish Government conducted a [Review of the Scotland Wide Free Bus Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled People](#) in 2009, which recommended that “The Scottish Government should aim to change the eligibility criteria from 1 April 2011 to include HM service personnel and veterans under the age of 60 who were seriously injured in service and are resident in Scotland.”

This recommendation was implemented from 1 April 2011, adding the two final eligibility criteria to the national concessionary travel scheme for older and disabled people, as set out above.

### **Scottish Parliament Action**

The Scottish Parliament has not considered further extension of the eligibility criteria of the national concessionary travel scheme for elderly and disabled people.

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