

**April 2010**

## CONCESSIONARY BUS TRAVEL – BULLETIN #23

### **Concessionary Travel Reimbursement Survey**

The consultation, *Local Authority special grant funding in 2010/11 for the national bus concession in England*, included a proposal to require authorities to provide the Department for Transport with data relating to their concessionary travel schemes. The majority of respondents to the consultation supported the principle of providing additional data to the Department for Transport.

A draft survey was sent to local authority concessionary travel data contacts on 1 April requesting information from authorities about their concessionary travel reimbursement arrangements, including details of reimbursement rates, additional cost arrangements, average fare data and concessionary bus patronage data. This information is required in order to assist the Department with the development of proposals for changes to the current reimbursement regime.

We have undertaken some initial consultation with local authority representatives in designing the survey, through the Department for Transport's Concessionary Travel Funding and Administration Working Group as well as through the Communities and Local Government Settlement Working Group. However, prior to the proposed launch of the survey in May we would welcome any further comments from local authorities on the survey and the data we are asking you to provide. A draft version of the survey is being circulated with this bulletin.

We have requested that authorities provide any comments on the survey questions/ data being sought by the **20th April** to the following email address: [BUS.DATA@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:BUS.DATA@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Administrative Reform**

In Bulletin 19, we informed you that responsibility for administering concessionary travel will move from lower tier to upper tier local authorities from April 2011. The Order under the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 to enact this change has now been approved by Parliament. A final version of the Order will be published on the OPSI website shortly. The Order number is 1179.

A copy of the Order in draft form can be found at the following web address:

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/ukdsi\\_9780111492123\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/ukdsi_9780111492123_en_1)

We will be compiling guidance for local authorities to assist in managing this change in due course.

The Department for Communities and Local Government plan to consult later this year on how the financial implications of the change will be taken forward as part of the next three year local government finance settlement.

### **2010/11 Special Grant**

Quarter 1 special grant allocations will be paid to Travel Concession Authorities on 21 May 2010.

Please refer to Bulletin 22, at the following [link](#), for details of the allocations as per the new Special Grant Report No 130.

### **Change in Age of Eligibility**

As communicated in our previous Bulletins, from 6 April 2010 the change of eligibility for concessionary travel will be aligned with the changes to state pension age.

In Bulletin 22 we distributed a guidance note to assist local authorities in understanding and communicating the change.

The ready reckoner on the Direct.Gov website has now been updated to reflect the change so people can calculate their individual age of eligibility.

We have also updated the public-facing pages of the Direct Gov website - please see the attached link for further details.

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Publictransport/BusAndCoachTravel/DG\\_10036264](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Publictransport/BusAndCoachTravel/DG_10036264)

### **Email Address for Concessionary Travel Enquiries**

A number of people are still using the old CBT Bill email address to contact us. This email address has not been valid for some time now and we do not receive emails that are sent to this address. Please check that you are using the following email address to contact us: [concessionaryfares@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:concessionaryfares@dft.gsi.gov.uk) .

### **Concessionary Travel Online Community**

If you would like to discuss the issues raised in this bulletin or anything to do with concessionary travel, with others working in this area then CTOC (the Concessionary Travel Online Community) is the place to go. The community is a forum for partners involved in delivering the concession, including local authorities and bus operators, to share best practice, ideas and practical tips. Follow the link below to sign up:

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/844620/home.do>

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