

# Concessionary Travel Method Statement Eligibility: Date of Birth



## Eligibility criteria

The England National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) is a national scheme which is administered in Warwickshire by the WCC. The eligibility criteria have remained unchanged since at least 2011 when WCC took over the scheme from the District and Borough Councils.

As the eligibility criteria are set down in legislation, WCC has no power to alter them, and is unable to issue ENCTS passes to anyone who does not meet the criteria. This document outlines how eligibility criteria will be applied in Warwickshire.

An applicant for an older person's pass must have reached state retirement age.

## State retirement age

Section 145a of the Transport Act 2000 (as amended) states that

**“(4) A travel concession authority in England other than a London authority must, on an application made to it by any person who appears to the authority to be an elderly or disabled person whose sole or principal residence is in the authority's area, issue to the person free of charge a permit indicating that he is entitled to the concession...”**

Section 146 of the Transport Act 2000 (as amended) says

**“elderly person” means a person who has attained**

**(a) in the case of a woman, her pensionable age,**

**(b) in the case of a man, the pensionable age of a woman born on the same day.”**

Pensionable age is determined according to the Pensions Act 2007 as amended by the Pensions Act 2011. The pensionable age of an individual can be determined by the use of the state pension age checker at <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>

Retirement age was different for men and women up until 2018. The state retirement age is now the same for men and women, so this document will just refer to state retirement age.

There is no specific government guidance about how to prove your age or date of birth for the purpose of obtaining a concessionary bus pass.

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## Has attained state retirement age - Issuing a pass

An applicant is entitled to a free bus pass from the date they reach the state retirement age. WCC will accept applications up to two weeks early, to allow time for the pass to be delivered.

The applicant is not entitled to use the bus pass until the day they reach state retirement age.

WCC will therefore issue passes to individuals who can demonstrate that ;

- They have already reached state retirement age, or
- They will reach state retirement age within the next two weeks.

The date the applicant becomes eligible will be determined by evidence of their date of birth.

As well as telling us that the applicant has reached state retirement age, knowing the applicant's date of birth helps us to make sure that we do not confuse customers with the same or similar names.

## Date of birth (DoB) - Evidence which can be used

Evidence	Notes re eligibility
Passport- valid or expired	It must be in your current name. You have already proved your DoB to get the passport so it does not matter if the passport has expired. It does not have to be a UK passport.
Driving licence	We can accept this so long as the DoB is clearly shown – not all the old paper licences will show DoB.
Birth certificate in current name	Any UK birth certificate is acceptable. Birth certificates from other countries are acceptable so long as they can be understood.
Birth certificate plus evidence of a name change	e.g. birth certificate in previous name plus a marriage certificate or deed poll certificate. Evidence of name change must show both old and new name.
NHS Letter or Prescription which shows DoB (provided NHS docs are not used for Address)	If NHS evidence has been used for address then it will be rejected if used for DoB as well.
Non-UK National Identity Card	Acceptable so long as it can be understood and shows DoB.
Marriage/Civil Partnership Certificate if DoB is shown	Not all certificates include a date of birth. A certificate without date of birth is not evidence of your age.
Residency permit, refugee paperwork, or immigration documents.	These will be considered on an individual basis but will generally be accepted if DoB is shown and the name matches.
Adoption certificate	These are issued following an adoption order and serve the same purpose/have the same evidential weight as a birth certificate.

## Date of birth - Evidence which is not acceptable

Evidence	Reason for rejection
Previous older person's bus pass	This does not tell us your date of birth
State pension letter	This does not tell us your date of birth
Evidence in a previous name	The evidence does not match the applicant
Documents which have been used to show you are a resident	Evidence of address and evidence of date of birth must come from two separate sources.