

Concessionary Travel

Eligibility for a Disabled Person's Bus Pass

The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme is a central government scheme which provides free off-peak bus travel for older and disabled people in England. It was established by an Act of Parliament.

Even if someone has not yet reached the eligible age for a bus pass we can still issue one if someone has a qualifying disability. When the government set up the scheme the legislation defined a 'disabled person' as meaning a person who;

- a. is blind or partially sighted – able to register as severely sight impaired or sight impaired
- b. is profoundly or severely deaf – hearing level at 70dBHL or worse in both ears
- c. is without speech
- d. has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his ability to walk
- e. does not have arms or has long term loss of the use of both arms
- f. has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning
- g. would, if he applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, 1988 c. 52. have his application refused pursuant to section 92 of that Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol,

There is additional guidance published by the government which explains each category in more detail. For example, category d. uses the same criteria as applied to the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance. This document attempts to simplify that guidance.

It is important to note that not everyone with a disability would qualify for a bus pass.

This document gives you information about each category, and what level of disability would entitle someone to a pass. It also suggests the evidence someone can use to show that they have a qualifying disability. **If you have multiple disabilities please call us on 01926 414986 to discuss your application or renewal.**

Once someone reaches the eligible age, they will be issued an Older Person's Pass and we will not need to see evidence of a qualifying disability.

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Category a – blind or partially sighted

A person is eligible for a concessionary bus pass if they are blind (severely sight impaired) or partially sighted (sight impaired).

In general terms a person can be registered as blind, or severely sight impaired, if they cannot see (with glasses, if worn) the top letter of the eye test chart (used by doctors and opticians) at a distance of 3 metres or less. Some people who can read the top letter of an eye test chart at 3 metres, but not at 6 metres, may still be eligible for registration as blind if their field of vision is also severely restricted.

A person can be registered as partially sighted, or sight impaired, if they have a full field of vision but can only read the top letter of the eye test chart at a distance of 6 metres or less (with glasses, if worn). However, if they can read the next three lines down at the same distance, but the field of vision is either moderately or severely restricted, they may still qualify for registration.

You will be eligible if;

- you are registered, or entitled to be registered, as blind or severely sight impaired, or
- you are registered, or entitled to be registered, as partially sighted or sight impaired.

You will **not** be eligible if;

- you are not entitled to be registered

N.B. you may still qualify if your vision is so impaired that you would be refused a driving licence. See the information sheet for 'Category g' for more details.

Proving that you are eligible



we can accept this evidence

- Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI) completed by an ophthalmologist.
- Form BD8 (issued from 1990 but replaced more recently by the CVI).
- Evidence of registration with the local authority as being severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted) (e.g. registration card or confirmation letter). In Warwickshire the register is managed by Warwickshire Vision Support, (formerly Warwickshire Association for the Blind), who can be contacted on 01926 411331.
- For a veteran, the 'Reasons for Decision' letter under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

If you cannot provide one of the above pieces of acceptable evidence, then please call the Concessionary Travel Team on 01926 414986 to discuss your application or renewal.

You are advised not to ask your GP to complete the evidence form, or write a letter, as this is not an NHS service. If your GP does agree to complete the form you will normally have to pay, and a completed form does not guarantee you a bus pass. We do not deal directly with GPs and we cannot contact them on your behalf.

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Category b – profoundly or severely deaf

A person is eligible for a concessionary bus pass if they are profoundly or severely deaf.

Guidance from the Department for Transport states that hearing loss is measured in decibels across the normal hearing spectrum, as dBHL (Hearing Level). Hearing loss is usually graded as follows:

- 25-39 dB HL: mild, cannot hear whispers.
- 40-69 dB HL: moderate, cannot hear conversational speech.
- 70-94 dB HL: severe, cannot hear shouting.
- >95 dB HL: profound, cannot hear sounds that would be painful for a hearing person to listen to.

You will be eligible if;

- your hearing loss is severe or profound, i.e. greater than 70 dBHL, in both ears

You will **not** be eligible if;

- your hearing loss is mild or moderate, i.e. 69 dBHL or less, in your better ear
- your hearing loss is temporary (less than 12 months)

Proving that you are eligible



we can accept this evidence

- Audiological report/audiogram.
- WCC Concessionary Travel Evidence Form CT-B1 (available from 01926 359180 or website) completed by an audiologist or specialist nurse.
- For a veteran, the 'Reasons for Decision' letter under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).
- Documents which demonstrate that you have hearing loss of more than 70 dBHL in both ears. These may include letters from a medical professional which you may already have in your possession.
- Confirmation that you are, or have been, registered as profoundly or severely deaf with the local authority.

If you cannot provide one of the above pieces of acceptable evidence, then please call the Concessionary Travel Team on 01926 414986 to discuss your application or renewal.

You are advised not to ask your GP to complete the evidence form, or write a letter, as this is not an NHS service. If your GP does agree to complete the form you will normally have to pay, and a completed form does not guarantee you a bus pass. We do not deal directly with GPs and we cannot contact them on your behalf.

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Category c – without speech

A person is eligible for a concessionary bus pass if they are without speech.

You will be eligible if;

- you are unable to communicate orally in any language i.e. you are unable to make clear basic oral requests or you are unable to ask specific questions to clarify instructions.

You will **not** be eligible if;

- you have speech but it is slow or difficult to understand e.g. if you have a severe stammer, or
- you cannot speak English, but you do speak another language.

Proving that you are eligible



we can
accept this
evidence

- Evidence that you have been awarded 8 or more points for the 'Communicating Verbally' activity of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- WCC Concessionary Travel Evidence Form CT-C1 (available from 01926 359180 or website) completed by a consultant or other specialist (e.g. speech therapist)
- For a child, a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Documents which demonstrate that you are without speech. This may include letters from your consultant or GP which you already have in your possession which describe in detail your disability.

If you cannot provide one of the above pieces of acceptable evidence, then please call the Concessionary Travel Team on 01926 414986 to discuss your application or renewal.

You are advised not to ask your GP to complete the evidence form, or write a letter, as this is not an NHS service. If your GP does agree to complete the form you will normally have to pay, and a completed form does not guarantee you a bus pass. We do not deal directly with GPs and we cannot contact them on your behalf.

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Category d – substantial and long term adverse effect on ability to walk

A person is eligible for a concessionary bus pass if they have a long term and substantial disability that means they cannot walk or which makes walking very difficult.

The criteria are the same as those used to consider Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Higher Rate Mobility Component and the 'Moving Around' activity of Personal Independence Payment (PIP). A short-term pass will be issued if evidence covers you for a limited period e.g. if your condition may improve or is temporary. A pass will not be issued if your condition lasts, or is expected to last, less than 12 months.

You will be eligible if;

- you are unable to walk at all,
- you can only get about by swinging through crutches (long term),
- you are unable to walk a short distance without severe discomfort,
- it takes an excessive amount of time to walk a short distance, or
- the exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to your life or would be likely to lead to serious deterioration in your health.

You will **not** be eligible if;

- your mobility problems are short term i.e. less than 12 months, or
- you are able to walk relatively normally with the use of an artificial leg.

Proving that you are eligible



we can accept this evidence

- Current PIP award letter - must show 8 or more points for the 'Moving Around' activity
- Recent (less than 1 yr old) DLA letter - must show Mobility Component at Higher rate
- For a veteran, proof of receiving War Pensioners Mobility Supplement, or the 'Reasons for Decision' letter under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)
- WCC Concessionary Travel Evidence Form CT-D1 (available from 01926 359180 or website) completed by a medical professional who is familiar with your walking ability e.g. consultant or physiotherapist.



we cannot accept this evidence

- PIP award of Mobility Component but only 4 points for the 'Moving Around' activity
- PIP award of Mobility Component but no breakdown of how the points were awarded
- DLA Mobility Component at the Lower Rate
- DLA Care component at any level
- Letter which lists medical conditions
- Letter which says your mobility is affected by a medical condition
- Letter which says you would benefit from having a bus pass
- Letter which asks for you to be considered for a bus pass because you need one
- Disabled parking badge (blue badge). The qualifying criteria for this was changed in 2019 and no longer matches the criteria for bus pass.

If you cannot provide one of the above pieces of acceptable evidence, then please call the Concessionary Travel Team on 01926 414986 to discuss your application or renewal.

You are advised not to ask your GP to complete the evidence form, or write a letter, as this is not an NHS service. If your GP does agree to complete the form you will normally have to pay, and a completed form does not guarantee you a bus pass. We do not deal directly with GPs and we cannot contact them on your behalf.

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Category e – does not have arms or has long term loss of the use of both arms

A person is eligible for a concessionary bus pass if they do not have arms or if they have the long term loss of use of both arms.

You will be eligible if;

- you have both arms but are unable to use them to carry out day to day tasks,
- you have a limb reduction deficiency of both arms,
- you have a bilateral upper limb amputation, or
- you have a medical condition (muscular dystrophy, spinal cord injury, motor neurone disease or condition of comparable severity) which affects the use of your arms.

You will **not** be eligible if;

- you have one arm and are able to carry out day to day tasks.

Proving that you are eligible



we can
accept this
evidence

- If you apply in person, and it is obvious that you are without arms, or without hands then documentary evidence is not necessary.
- WCC Concessionary Travel Evidence Form CT-E1 (available from 01926 359180 or website) completed by a consultant, physiotherapist, or specialist nurse.
- Documents which demonstrate that you have lost the use of your arms over the long term (12 months or more). This may include letters from your consultant or GP which you already have in your possession which describe in detail your disability.
- For a veteran, the 'Reasons for Decision' letter under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

If you cannot provide one of the above pieces of acceptable evidence, then please call the Concessionary Travel Team on 01926 414986 to discuss your application or renewal.

You are advised not to ask your GP to complete the evidence form, or write a letter, as this is not an NHS service. If your GP does agree to complete the form you will normally have to pay, and a completed form does not guarantee you a bus pass. We do not deal directly with GPs and we cannot contact them on your behalf.

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Category f – learning disability

A person is eligible for a concessionary bus pass if they have a learning disability as defined by the Transport Act 2000.

The Transport Act 2000 defines learning disability as “a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning”.

Guidance for concessionary travel defines ‘learning disability’ in this way:

- “A person with a learning disability has a reduced ability to understand new or complex information, a difficulty in learning new skills, and may be unable to cope independently. These disabilities must have started before adulthood and have a lasting effect on development. The person should be able to qualify for specialist services and he or she may have had special educational provision.
- The Department of Health adopted the term 'learning disability' in 1992. **It has the same meaning as its predecessor 'mental handicap'** but it is seen as more acceptable, particularly in reducing the confusion with mental illness.”

The term ‘learning disability’ has more recently been replaced with the term ‘intellectual disability’. The British Psychological Society defines ‘intellectual disability using the same terms as the Transport Act 2000 and, in addition, indicates that significant impairment of intelligence means someone with an IQ of less than 70.

You will be eligible if;

you have a learning disability which includes

- **significant impairment of intelligence i.e. IQ of less than 70**

AND

- **Significant impairment of social functioning**

provided your disability started in childhood

You will **not** be eligible if;

- you have dyslexia, dyspraxia or attention deficit disorder – these would not qualify as ‘significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning’.
- your intelligence is not impaired (i.e. your IQ is more than 70), even if your disability affects your social functioning
- you are applying because of mental health problems
- your condition started after you became an adult (e.g. brain injury)

N.B.

- *You may still qualify if your condition is so severe that you would be refused a driving licence. This includes people whose disability started in adulthood e.g. brain injury. See the information sheet for ‘Category g’ for more details.*
- *If you hold a driving licence you will not normally qualify on the grounds of a learning disability.*

PTO continued overleaf

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Proving that you are eligible



we can
accept this
evidence

Information which confirms you have

- significant impairment of your intelligence i.e. IQ less than 70 **AND**
- significant impairment of your social functioning.

The following will be accepted automatically

- Information which demonstrates you have a formal learning disability diagnosis with the code F70, F71, F72 or F73
- Council Tax bill indicating exemption due to severe mental impairment

If you do not have one of the above, then you should speak to a member of the CT Team before applying under this category, and we can advise what evidence you will need to provide.

Please call 01926 414986 or email ct@warwickshire.gov.uk

We may ask you to send one or more of the following.

- Completed WCC Concessionary Travel Evidence Form CT-F1, CT-F2 or CT-F3 (available from 01926 359180 or website)
- Statement of Special Educational Needs, or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).



we cannot
accept this
evidence

Benefit letters (ESA, DLA or PIP) – these do not tell us about your intelligence

Information which says you have

- 'Learning Difficulties'
- Aspergers Syndrome
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder

None of the above provides evidence that your intelligence is significantly impaired.

If you cannot provide one of the above pieces of acceptable evidence, then please call the Concessionary Travel Team on 01926 414986 to discuss your application or renewal.

If you are asked to complete a CT-F1 evidence form, then the appropriate medical professional will be a psychologist.

You are advised not to ask your GP to complete the evidence form, or write a letter, as this is not an NHS service. However, If your GP does agree to complete the form you will normally have to pay, and a completed form does not guarantee you a bus pass. We do not deal directly with GPs and we cannot contact them on your behalf.

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Category g – refusal of a Driving Licence

A person is eligible for a concessionary bus pass if they are not eligible for a driving licence on medical grounds.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988 you may be refused a driving licence on the grounds of your medical fitness. Those currently barred from holding a licence include people with:

- i. epilepsy (unless it is of a type which does not pose a danger);
- ii. severe mental disorder;
- iii. liability to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting
- iv. inability to read a registration plate in good light at 20.5 metres (with lenses if worn);
- v. other disabilities which are likely to cause the driving of vehicles by them to be a source of danger to the public.

You do not have to apply for a driving licence in order to qualify, and a child may be eligible under this category if their condition would prevent them from holding a driving licence if they were old enough.

You will be eligible if;

- you have epilepsy and your current experience of seizures means that you would not be eligible for a driving licence
- you have diabetes and have suffered more than one hypoglycaemic attack requiring the assistance of another person within the last 12 months,
- you have a severe mental disorder which mean that you would be refused a driving licence or have your driving licence revoked,
- you cannot read a registration plate in good light at 20.5 metres (with lenses),
- you are liable to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting,

The above are examples of medical conditions which would prevent someone from holding a driving licence. You may also be eligible if;

- you have another medical condition which means that you would be refused a driving licence or have your driving licence revoked

You will **not** be eligible if;

- you are refused a driving licence as a result of the misuse of drugs or alcohol,
- you are advised not to drive for medical reasons, or for the sake of your health, but are allowed to keep your driving licence (e.g. if you are recovering from surgery or because driving would make a medical condition worse),
- the reason you cannot drive is short term (less than 12 months) and you are not required to surrender your licence (e.g. after surgery)
- the reason you cannot drive is because of the side effects of medication that you are taking (unless your driving licence is revoked or refused because of it),
- you suffer from mental health issues (such as anxiety or depression) which would not cause you to be refused a driving licence, or
- you have a life-limiting condition or serious illness, unless you are at risk of seizures as a result.

If you are in possession of a current driving licence you cannot apply under this category.

This includes a provisional driving licence. Applicants under this category may have their details passed to the DVLA for the purpose of fraud prevention.

continued overleaf



Concessionary Travel

Proving that you are eligible

You need to show that one of the following applies:

1. Your driving licence has been revoked on medical grounds.
2. You have been refused a driving licence on medical grounds.
3. You would be ineligible for a driving licence on medical grounds.

Any evidence you provide should be dated within the last 12 months.

 we can accept this evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from the DVLA indicating that your driving licence has been refused or revoked following an assessment. • Letter from the DVLA accepting a surrendered licence, together with evidence of relevant the medical condition • WCC Concessionary Travel Evidence Form CT-G1 (available from 01926 359180 or website) completed by your consultant or suitably qualified nurse e.g. specialist epilepsy nurse, diabetes nurse or CPN. • Information from a medical professional (e.g. consultant, qualified mental health practitioner or ophthalmologist) which confirms that you would be refused a driving licence (other than because of alcohol/drug dependency.) • Evidence which demonstrates you have one of the disabilities or medical conditions would be covered by Section 92 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (as listed in paragraphs i. to v. overleaf). This may include letters from your consultant or GP which you already have in your possession which describe in detail the condition being treated.
 we cannot accept this evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice not to drive because of medication (unless it explicitly states that you must hand back your driving licence or that a driving licence would be refused). • Letter from the DVLA indicating you have voluntarily surrendered your driving licence, unless there is also separate evidence of the medical condition which is the reason for giving it up. • A letter which states you would be unable to drive but which does not give the reason. • Anything which indicated that the reason you cannot drive is linked to the misuse of alcohol or drugs

You will also need to show whether the refusal of driving licence is permanent (e.g. because of a lifelong condition) or temporary (e.g. because of an isolated seizure).

The expiry date on the pass will be tied to the length of time you would be prevented from holding a driving licence. If you cannot provide this, the pass will be issued for one year.

If you cannot provide one of the above pieces of acceptable evidence, then please call the Concessionary Travel Team on 01926 414986 to discuss your application or renewal.

You are advised not to ask your GP to complete the evidence form, or write a letter, as this is not an NHS service. If your GP does agree to complete the form you will normally have to pay, and a completed form does not guarantee you a bus pass. We do not deal directly with GPs and we cannot contact them on your behalf.