

National Concessionary Travel Scheme

From 1 April 2011 Oxfordshire County Council will be administering the concessionary travel scheme.

The national bus concession in England is available at any time on a Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday, and from 9.30am to 11pm on any other day.

Eligible People

Older People

1.1 There are two broad categories of people eligible for a statutory concession: men and women who have attained the state pension age for women and eligible disabled people (where no age limits apply).

1.2 Previously the eligible age for concessionary travel was 60 years of age. However, since 6 April 2010, the age of eligibility for concessionary travel in England has been tied to the pensionable age for women. So, as the pensionable age for women gradually increases from 60 to 65 so too will the age of eligibility for concessionary travel increase for both men and women.

1.3 The age of eligibility for concessionary travel is therefore:

- For women = pensionable age
- For men = pensionable age of a woman born on the same day

1.4 It was announced in the Spending Review 2010 that the Government plans to speed up the alignment of the pension age so that the pensionable age for women will now reach 65 by 2018 instead of 2020 as previously planned. Furthermore the pensionable age for both men and women will now rise to 66 by 2020. The age of eligibility for concessionary travel will increase in line with these and any other future changes to the pensionable age for women.

Disabled People

1.6 There are seven categories of disabled people who are entitled to the statutory minimum concession and these are set out in section 146 of the Transport Act 2000 and section 240(5) of the Greater London Authority Act (in relation to London).

1.7 An eligible disabled person is someone who:

- a. Is blind or partially sighted
- b. Is profoundly or severely deaf
- c. Is without speech
- d. Has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and longterm adverse effect on his or her 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 or she applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his/her application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.