



Department for Transport

Councillor Susan Aitken
Leader of Glasgow City Council

Item 6(d)

20 February 2025

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Simon Lightwood MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: simon.lightwood@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/00030246
Your Ref: SA/PS/1210/SST

9 January 2025

Dear Councillor Aitken,

Thank you for your letter of 10 December to the Secretary of State, about concessionary bus travel for asylum seekers. I am replying as the Minister for Local Transport.

As you know, concessionary travel is a devolved policy area, this means, in effect, that there are different schemes in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, so the administrative arrangements are entirely separate. On this basis, integrating these separate concessionary travel schemes would not be straightforward, due to the different benefits and restrictions for the concessionary bus pass which exist in each of the devolved nations. As I hope you will appreciate, the decision on whether to continue the pilot scheme to which you refer is therefore one for the Scottish Government to make.

In England, the government is committed to delivering better bus services for passengers, and confirmed at the Budget on 30 October a £1 billion boost for buses to help local areas deliver high quality, reliable bus services and protect the vital routes that so many people rely on. This includes £712 million for local authorities to support and improve bus services. Funding allocated to local authorities can be used in whichever way they wish to improve services for passengers, which could include introducing local fares initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

SIMON LIGHTWOOD MP

MINISTER FOR LOCAL TRANSPORT