



Concessionary Bus Travel in England for Somerset Residents

(Somerset Residents Only)

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Please read these notes before completing your application form.

What is the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme?

This scheme entitles eligible residents to apply for a concessionary travel pass which provides the pass holder with free off peak travel on registered local bus services anywhere in England, between the hours of 9.30am and 11pm Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and bank holidays.

The pass does not cover travel on the Taunton Flyer Park & Ride service, long distance coach services or any rail services.

Who can apply for the English National Concessionary Travelpass using this form?

Any person who is a permanent resident of Somerset and has reached the qualifying age or qualifies because of their disability.

Is there a cost?

Passes are issued free of charge. However there is a charge for replacing a valid pass.

Who is a permanent resident?

A permanent resident is a person who has their sole or principal residence in Somerset, it is expected that they would be paying council tax to one of the District or Borough Councils as listed on the application form. If you use a holiday home as a principle residency but the site is not registered as having residential status you may still be eligible for a travel pass but may be asked to provide additional information with regards the length of time you live on site and where you live when not on site.

Please note: that you are not entitled to more than one UK travel pass. Therefore if you already hold a pass or are entitled to hold a pass for Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, you are not entitled to an English National Concessionary travel pass as well.

What is the qualifying age?

If you were born on or before 5 April 1950 your qualifying age is 60.

If you were born after 5 April 1950 the qualifying age for concessionary travel for women will be state pension age and for men it will be the state pensionable age of a woman born on the same day.

There is a ready reckoner which enables people affected by the pension age changes to see at what age they become eligible for their travel pass. You can find this on our website: www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary or www.direct.gov.uk and follow the links to state pension age, or call Somerset County Council, on 0300 123 2224.

Community Transport

In Somerset you may be able to use your travel pass on certain types of journeys provided by community transport. Contact www.somerset.gov.uk/slinky or your local provider or ring Somerset County Council 0300 123 2224 for details.

Do I qualify because of my disability?

Your disability should be permanent or have lasted at least 12 months, be likely to last 12 months or be likely to reoccur, and should have a substantial effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

You may qualify if your disability is within one of the seven categories listed in the Transport Act 2000, as shown below:

- A)** If you are blind or partially sighted.
- B)** If you are profoundly or severely deaf.
- C)** If you are without speech.
- D)** If you have a disability, or have suffered an injury, that has a substantial or long-term effect on your ability to walk.
- E)** If you have no arms or have long-term loss of use of both arms.
- F)** If you have a learning disability that was present at birth or diagnosed during your early years. This means that you have a significantly reduced understanding of new or

complex information, a difficulty in learning new skills and may be unable to cope independently.

G) If you applied for a driving licence you would be refused because of a medical condition i.e. epilepsy, severe mental disorder, liability to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting.

This does not include those who have had their licence refused/revoked through misuse of alcohol or drugs.

What must I include with my application form?

All applicants must include one recent low gloss colour passport style photograph with their name and postcode clearly written on the back in block capitals.

All applicants must include evidence of their age; this should be an official document which includes your name and date of birth.

As an example we will accept a copy of one of the following:

- Pension Card/Letter
- Passport
- Birth Certificate
- European Travel Insurance Card
- NHS Medical Card
- Driving Licence

All applicants must include evidence of their permanent residence in Somerset; this should be a recent official document which includes their name and address.

As an example we will accept a copy of one of the following:

- Council Tax Bill
- Utility Bill
- Electoral Registration
- Bank Statement
- TV Licence
- Landline Phone Bill
- Driving Licence
- NHS Medical Card

Disabled Applicants Only - Proof of eligibility

The evidence required will vary depending on your disability type and you may qualify under more than one category.

The disability should be permanent or have lasted at least 12 months, be likely to last 12 months or be likely to reoccur, and should have a substantial effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Before completing the application form please read the following seven categories and the corresponding qualifying notes then select the category that best suits your disability and submit the relevant evidence.

A) If you are Blind or Partially Sighted.

A person can be registered as Severely Sight Impaired (Blind) 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 meters.

A person can be registered as Sight Impaired (Partially Sighted) 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 meters or less (with glasses if worn)

- CVI (Certificate of Visual Impairment)
- Disabled Persons Registration Card.
- Letter from Social Services confirming registration as blind or partially sighted.
- Evidence from an eye specialist, i.e. optometrist or consultant ophthalmologist, confirming that the applicant's sight is so impaired that they would qualify for registration as Severely Sight Impaired (Blind) or Sight Impaired (Partially Sighted).

B) If you are profoundly or severely deaf.

Hearing loss is measured in decibels as dBHL (hearing level).

A person is generally regarded as having a profound hearing loss if it reaches 95+ dBHL and severe hearing loss if it reaches 70-95 dBHL

- Letter from Social Services confirming that the applicant's hearing loss is so impaired that they meet the hearing loss criteria.
- An audiological report, or a

report from an aural specialist confirming that the applicant's hearing loss is so impaired that they meet the hearing loss criteria.

C) If you are without speech.

A person who is without speech will be unable to communicate orally in any language. They will be unable to make clear basic oral requests e.g. to ask for a particular destination, fare or unable to ask specific questions to clarify instructions e.g. "Does this bus go to the High Street"? This category does not include a person who is able to communicate orally, but whose speech may be slow or difficult to understand, for example because of a severe stammer.

- Letter from Social Services confirming applicant is without speech.
- Letter on official paper from a medical professional confirming the applicant is without speech.
- Personal Independence Payment statement of entitlement which clearly shows the applicant has been

awarded a score of at least 8 points for "Communicating Verbally".

D) If you have a disability, or have suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to walk.

In assessing eligibility under this category the applicant will need to provide evidence that they can only walk with excessive labour and at an extremely slow pace or with excessive pain. The local authority will take the following into account

- The distance over which they can walk without experiencing severe discomfort.
- The speed at which they can walk.
- The length of time for which they can walk.
- The manner in which they walk.
- Whether the exertion required to walk would constitute a danger to their life or would lead to a serious deterioration in their health.

The degree of impairment should be at a comparable level to that required for Disability Living Allowance - Higher Rate Mobility or Personal Independence Payment Mobility Activities - moving around activity with an award of 8 points or more

- Disability Living Allowance award letter which clearly shows the award of Mobility Component at higher rate.
- Personal Independence Payment statement of entitlement which clearly shows Mobility Activities - moving around with a score of 8 points or more.
- War pension with mobility supplement.
- Letter on official paper from a medical professional which gives details of the walking difficulty relating to the bullet points as previously mentioned to enable us to assess against the Department for Transport's guidance on assessing ability to walk.

E) If you have no arms or have long-term loss of the use of both arms.

A person who has long-term inability to use both arms, this includes upper limb double amputees and those who have arms but are unable to use them, which means you would be unable to carry out day-to-day tasks, for example, paying coins into a fare machine.

- Letter on official paper from a medical professional confirming the applicant has no arms or long-term loss of the use of both arms.

F) If you have a learning disability that was present at birth or diagnosed during your early years. This means that you have a significantly reduced understanding of new or complex information, a difficulty in learning new skills and may be unable to cope independently.

The disability will have a lasting effect on development and a substantial adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal

day to day activities.

- Letter from Social Services confirming they have a learning disability as described above.
 - Personal Independence Payment statement of entitlement which clearly shows Mobility Activities - Planning and following journeys activity with a score of 10 points or more.
 - Letter on official paper from a medical professional giving detail of the applicant's learning disability, stating when the learning disability was diagnosed and a description of the substantial adverse effect it has on their abilities to carry out normal day to day activities.
- Epilepsy (unless it is a type which does not pose a danger or the applicant has not had an epileptic attack whilst awake for a year or more)
 - Severe mental disorder.
 - Liability to sudden attacks of giddiness or fainting.
 - Inability to read a registration plate in good light at 20.5 meters (with lenses if worn).
 - Other disabilities which are likely to cause the driving of vehicles by them to be a source of danger to the public (details required).
- Letter from DVLA giving notice of refusal or withdrawal of licence (must be dated within the last 12 months and all pages of the letter must be sent).
 - Letter on official paper from a medical professional confirming a medical condition, that would prevent the applicant holding a driving licence as above.

G) If you applied for a driving licence you would be refused because of a medical condition.

This category includes persons who are currently barred from holding a driving licence as follows. It does not include persons who persistently misuse or abuse drugs or alcohol.

What happens if I need a replacement travel pass?

There is a charge to replace a valid travel pass. For the current charge please see our website: www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary or telephone 0300 123 2224.

You can also use the website to pay on-line for a replacement travel pass or download the "Replacement English National Concessionary bus pass form" or contact us on 0300 123 2224 to request a "Replacement English National Concessionary bus pass form"

What happens when the travel pass is due for renewal?

Somerset County Council will automatically renew age entitled travel passes as they expire, so should you change address it is essential that you update your details with us.

It is recommended that you keep a note of when your travel pass is due to expire.

If your replacement pass does not automatically arrive, please contact us on 0300 123 2224 or e-mail: transport@somerset.gov.uk to report this within 90 days of your cards expiry date. Failure to do so may mean that you will be charged to issue another pass.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you have not kept us informed of your most recent address, there may be a charge to re-issue your travel pass.

Somerset County Council is required by law to protect the public funds it administers therefore for disabled renewals we will send a letter before expiry date, to check that your circumstances have not changed and to request up to date evidence of your continued entitlement.

Please retain these details for future reference.

