

P-04-506 Free bus pass concessionary travel for benefit claimants - students and under 18s – Correspondence from Petitioner to Clerking Team, 13.01.2013

Dear Kayleigh,

Thanks again for your email , my response to the various submissions is as follows :-

The minister notes possible 'stigma' around use of concessionary bus pass for the poor in our communities , however does this not also apply to disabled awardees ? im sure the greater mobility and opportunities will allay this issue !

The uk appears to be one of the only countries giving this concession to the 60-64 age group, generally a group still in employment and relatively wealthy . i also note serbia and france have concessionary discounts for the unemployed {50 % discount } , i feel this would be a brilliant starting point for a scheme to aid mobility for the poor and vulnerable in wales ?

It would be interesting to know how much of this £ 70 m concession is going to wealthy households { who probably don't utilise the scheme } ?

Taith notes that the welsh government can easily amend section 147 of transport act 2000 to alter eligibility conditions for a concessionary scheme.

Any promotion of public transport will help the welsh government to achieve its carbon reduction and sustainability targets ..

I feel the current scheme is unjust and unfair as the poor and vulnerable are being excluded from the basic human right of mobility - ie the bus charge to a hospital when on welfare benefits can result in non access to treatment or even the choice between travel or food or power . In a civilised developed country surely we can assist those less fortunate in our communities ...

Regards,

Mark Griffiths