



Bus passes in England

From 1 April 2008, people over the age of 60 and disabled people in England are eligible for a free bus pass. This is valid between 9.30 am and 11pm Monday to Fridays and all day at weekends and Bank Holidays, across England. This is a legal minimum requirement and is funded by the government.

To get a free pass, people with epilepsy are classed as 'disabled' if they would be refused a driving licence if they applied for one.

The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) regulations 1999 allow a person with epilepsy to have a driving licence if:

- that person has not had an epileptic attack while awake for a year or more, or
- that person has a history of attacks while asleep, and only while asleep, over the past three years or more, and
- the driving of a vehicle by that person is not likely to cause danger to the public.

This means that a person is not eligible for a concessionary pass just because they have epilepsy. They are eligible for the pass if they would be refused a driving licence, if they applied for one.

Where can I get a free pass?

Contact your local authority or, in metropolitan areas, the Passenger Transport Executive as these are the organisations responsible for issuing the passes.

Where can the pass be used?

You can use your free pass for bus travel across England.

How much does a pass cost?

The pass will be issued free of charge. If a photograph is needed you will need to supply that.

Will I be entitled to concessionary fares on coaches?

No - free travel will not be included for coach services. Some coach operators, such as National Express, already offer half-fare schemes for older and disabled people on many scheduled coach services. There are no changes planned to these services.

Will I be able to have free or discounted travel on other transport like trams, ferries or rail?

No, the legal minimum only covers bus services. A local authority may add travel on other forms of transport, depending on their judgement of local needs and circumstances, and their overall financial priorities. The local authority will have to fund any additional concessions, as the government will not.

For further information about concessionary travel for people with epilepsy, please contact the Epilepsy Helpline (freephone 0808 800 5050) or email helpline@epilepsy.org.uk.

Epilepsy Action makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of information in its publications but cannot be held liable for any actions taken based on this information.

If you are reading this publication more than 12 months after the date shown below, please contact Epilepsy Action to check whether it is still current.

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