



# Concessionary Bus Travel in England for Somerset Residents

(Somerset Residents Only)



**SOMERSET**  
County Council

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 to and from the Taunton Park and Ride sites; however passengers boarding on route will be able to use their pass on the Park & Ride buses. The pass is not accepted on long distance coach services or any rail services.

## Can I use the pass on the Falcon Service?

English National Concessionary Travel passes are now valid for free travel on Falcon services between Plymouth and Cullompton and between Taunton and Bristol, subject to local time restrictions. (For any other journey, you can get a 1/3 of adult single and return fares). (This is available at any time).

## 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:** Your card should be issued by the authority in which you have your principle residence. 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](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary) or [www.direct.gov.uk/state-pension-age](http://www.direct.gov.uk/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. Please contact [www.somerset.gov.uk/slinky](http://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 your ability to walk is substantially and adversely effected due to a long term injury or disability
- 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 age in the form of a document showing the applicants name and date of birth together with evidence of residency, in the form of a document clearly indicating the applicants name and address.

Two separate documents are required, one from each category, please see examples of acceptable documents below.

### **Examples for proof of age category (a copy of one of the following):**

- Pension Card/Letter
- Passport

- Birth Certificate (bearing applicants name)
- NHS Medical Card (bearing applicants name)
- Driving Licence

**Examples for proof of Residency category (a copy of one of the following):**

- Council Tax Bill (most recent)
- Utility Bill (no more than 3 months old)
- Bank Statement
- TV Licence (most recent)
- Landline Phone Bill (no more than 3 months old)
- Valid Driving Licence
- NHS Medical Card or Prescription (bearing applicants name)

**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 recur, 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 most 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) and must be bilateral.

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 your ability to walk is substantially and adversely effected due to a long term injury or disability.**

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.
- Full documentation of 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.

This category does not automatically cover those who have a diagnosis of Autism or an Autistic Spectrum Condition.

- Letter from Social Services confirming they have a learning disability as described above.
- Full documentation of 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.

**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.**

- 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.

## What happens if I need a replacement travel pass i.e. lost or damaged?

There is a charge to replace a valid travel pass. For the current charge please see our website: [www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary](http://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?

### Age entitled customers.

Details of the renewal process can be found on our website: [www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/concessionary) Alternatively, please call Somerset County Council on 0300 123 2224.

### Disability Entitled Customers

Approximately 28 days prior to the expiry date on the Travel



Pass, your previous evidence will be reviewed, and a decision taken to either:

- Automatically renew the Travel Pass.
- Send a renewal letter requesting up to date evidence of continued eligibility.

**Please retain these details for future reference.**

