

Response ID ANON-ZG34-Q8AU-7

Submitted to **Consultation on free bus travel for people resident in Scotland aged under 19**

Submitted on 2020-12-07 17:50:03

Free bus travel for people resident in Scotland aged under 19: our proposal

Objectives of the scheme

Eligible people

Eligible services

1 Do you think extending national concessionary travel to include free bus travel for under 19s in Scotland will contribute towards our objectives to increase opportunities and reduce inequalities?

Yes

Please provide further comments:

It should open employment, educational, cultural and sporting opportunities for young people who might otherwise find costs of transport to be a barrier to these opportunities

2 Do you think there are any disadvantages to introducing free bus travel for under 19s in Scotland?

Yes

Please provide further comments:

Unless the scheme is extended to cover free ferry travel for under 19's on the islands, it will further disadvantage them compared to young people on the mainland. Islanders will only have free access to the usually very limited on island bus services free of charge compared to those based on the mainland who could in theory travel the length and breadth of the country every day if they so wished. There would still be a significant cost to islanders before they can access a meaningful bus network.

Delivery options

3 Should a smart card, such as the widely used Young Scot card, be used to establish eligibility for free bus access?

Yes

Please provide further comments:

This seems to be a straightforward system and works for other concessionary schemes.

4 Should children under a certain age need to have their application for a travel card approved by a parent or guardian?

Yes

Please provide further comments:

5 If you answered 'yes' to question 4, at what age should parental or guardian approval be required?

Please give us your views:

Sixteen seems a reasonable age.

Reimbursement

COVID-19 implications

Assessing impact

6 Are there any likely impacts the proposals contained within this Consultation may have on particular groups of people, with reference to the 'protected characteristics' listed above? Please be as specific as possible.

Please give us your views:

Where these groups are island based they will suffer similar disadvantage to other under 19's on the islands, unless the scheme is extended to include free ferries.

7 Do you think the proposals contained within this Consultation may have any additional implications on the rights, wellbeing and safety of children and young people? Please be as specific as possible.

Please give us your views:

The earlier comments on inclusion of free ferry travel would help the wellbeing of islanders through having access to broader range of experience. Generally the scheme should be beneficial in most ways.

8 Do you think the proposals contained in this Consultation are likely to increase or reduce the costs and burdens for bus companies, public bodies, third sector organisations or businesses? Please be as specific as possible.

Please give us your views:

There will be an obvious cost to SG in funding the scheme, but greater bus usage should make services more sustainable and worthwhile to run. there could perhaps be a loss of business to Scotrail. It may result in fewer car trips as these would become relatively more expensive, a possible environmental benefit. Costs to third sector and businesses should generally decrease.

Other considerations

9 Are there any other issues you wish to raise which are not covered in the points or questions elsewhere in this Consultation?

Please provide any further comments:

The case for extension of the scheme to Scotland's ferry services is a strong one and in the spirit of the Islands' Act/Plan. Without this extension inequalities and disadvantages between young islanders and mainland contemporaries would be increased. If it were extended to all under 19's rather than just islanders it would offer mainland young people the opportunity to experience the unique culture and make island events for young people a viable option with advantages for all parties.

About you

What is your name?

Name:

David Herriot

What is your email address?

Email:

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Scottish islands' Federation

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (without name)

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

We would like to hear the views of people who will be impacted by these proposals including children and young people, their parents and carers and people who work with children in a paid or voluntary capacity. To help us understand more about you, are you:

None of the above

We would also like to know how often you normally use buses (i.e. prior to the pandemic):

I sometimes use buses (for example once a month)

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: