



The Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State for Transport
By Email

14 October 2024

Dear Ms Haigh,

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents Kevin Stuchbery, Tracy Crum, Paul Scott, Richard Crook and others who are trustees and members of Herefordshire Mencap.

They are concerned about the unfair restrictions on disabled people's ability to travel before 0930 on weekdays, and I share their concerns.

When I met with them recently, they explained how important it is for people with disabilities to be able to use public transport at all times of day, so that they can get to activities and/or employment opportunities.

They are campaigning for free bus travel, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for people with disabilities.

Under the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007, eligible people with disabilities and pensioners can only use their bus passes between 9.30am and 11pm on weekdays.

However, some travel authorities, including Travel South Yorkshire and Norfolk, have lifted these unfair restrictions in travel times, thereby offering people with disabilities increased freedom and opportunities.

Other local authorities argue that it would be 'too difficult' to lift the restriction locally. Clearly, the best and fairest way forward is to change the regulations nationally so that eligible disabled people can enjoy unrestricted concessionary travel, wherever they live.

Please will you therefore take action nationally to remove the unfair time restrictions on disabled people's mobility so that they can use buses all day every day, no matter where they live?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.