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Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee

To consider and report on infrastructure, capital investment, transport, Scottish Water and other matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities, and matters relating to housing and digital infrastructure.

www.scottish.parliament.uk/infrastructure
ici.committee@scottish.parliament.uk
0131 348 5229
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The Committee reports to the Parliament as follows—

1. On 16 February 2015, the National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Scotland) Amendment Order 2015 [draft] was laid before Parliament and was subject to affirmative resolution procedure.

### Purpose of the instrument

2. The National Concessionary Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (the scheme) provides an entitlement to free bus travel for people over 60 or meeting certain disability related criteria. In line with EU rules relating to transport state aids, operators can be reimbursed for the costs of participating in such a scheme so as to leave them no better or no worse off from doing so.

3. The objective of this Order is to amend article 12 of the National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Scotland) Order 2006 to enable operators to continue to be reimbursed, after the expiry of the current reimbursement provisions on 31 March 2015, by setting rates and capped levels of funding for the financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

4. In 2015-16, the rate will be 57.1% (of the adult single fare) and the funding level will be £202 million. In 2016-17, the rate and funding level will be 56.9% and £212 million. The corresponding figures for 2014-15 are 58.1% and £192 million.

5. The Scottish Government undertook economic research and negotiated with the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) in setting the rates and undertook a business and regulatory impact assessment. The funding levels are set on the basis of the new reimbursement rates and estimates of the numbers of journeys and levels of fare rises over the next two years.

### Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee consideration

6. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform (DPLR) Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 24 February 2015 and agreed not to draw the Parliament’s attention to the instrument on any grounds within its remit. The DPLR report can be found at the following link:


### Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee consideration

7. At its meeting on 4 March 2015, the Infrastructure and Capital Investment (ICI) Committee took evidence on this instrument from—

   Derek Mackay, Minister for Transport and Islands, Scottish Government;
Tom Davy, Team Leader, Bus and Local Transport Policy; and

Nancy Woodhead, Concessionary Travel Policy Manager, Scottish Government.

8. The Committee explored a number of issues with the Minister including:

- the overall aims and benefits of the scheme;
- the eligibility criteria for the scheme;
- the effect on routes used by users not usually covered by the scheme; and
- the overall cost of the scheme and compensation percentage.

9. A link to the Official Report of the meeting can be found at the following page:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9822#VP7jcdJdW2s

10. Following the evidence session, the Minister for Transport and Islands moved the following motion—

S4M-12397—That the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee recommends that The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Scotland) Amendment Order 2015 [draft] be approved.

11. Following the debate, the Committee agreed the motion without division.

Recommendation

12. The Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee recommends to Parliament that it approves the draft instrument.