



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE**

By email:

Christina McKelvie  
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The Scottish Parliament

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25 October 2017

Dear Christina McKelvie

### **The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons**

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2017 in which you raised the issue about the disparity in the treatment of permanently disabled people, who have to re-apply for their National Entitlement Card after 3 years, and people over the age of 60, who do not.

We share your concern that permanently disabled people should not be discriminated against in the Scheme by having to re-apply.

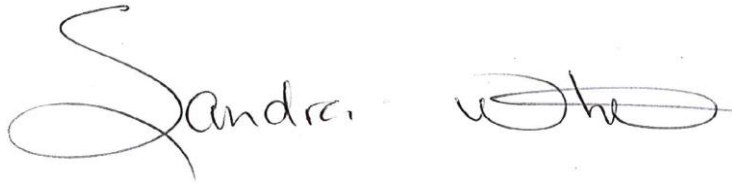
Thank you for sharing the Minister for Transport's response to this issue, namely that local authorities do not hold details about individuals' conditions which leads to the need to request up to date eligibility confirmation.

As part of our scrutiny of the Social Security Bill at Stage 1, we are looking at the sections you identify that deal with the concerns you raise, namely Section 8: Duty to give assistance and Section 14: Disability assistance.

I will share the issues you have raised with members of the Social Security Committee and we will take them into account in the Committee's Stage 1 report.

You have also alerted us to the fact that an Equality Impact Assessment was not carried out on the Regulations which provide for the Scheme. I will take on board your recommendation to ensure that regulations arising from the Social Security Bill are equality impact assessed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink. The first part of the signature is the name "Sandra" written in a cursive style. To the right of "Sandra" is a stylized, illegible signature that appears to be "White".

**SANDRA WHITE MSP  
CONVENER**