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Convener
Citizen Participation and Public Petitions
Committee
The Scottish Parliament

By email: petitions.committee@parliament.scot

Your ref: PE2028
25 March 2026

Dear Convener,

PE2028: Extend the concessionary bus travel scheme to include people seeking asylum in Scotland

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2026 in relation to the above petition which has now been closed.

In relation to the specific concerns raised by the Committee, I can confirm that the free bus travel pilot for people seeking asylum in Scotland will end on 31 March 2026, and Transport Scotland has engaged with our stakeholders to reiterate this.

My officials have begun to gather information to support the evaluation of this pilot, including collecting the views of participants and delivery partners. The evaluation will determine if the pilot has helped people seeking asylum to integrate into society in line with the Scottish Government's New Scots Strategy, and understand how free bus travel has impacted the daily lives of asylum seekers in Scotland.

As explained in my letter of 8 December 2025, the Scottish Government continues to explore if inclusion of people seeking asylum in the statutory National Concessionary Travel Schemes will be possible in the longer term. It will be for the next government to continue considering a long-term scheme. I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



JIM FAIRLIE

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