

Companion Bus Pass Assessment Criteria for someone with a Physical or Mental impairment of fare paying age

In order to qualify for a Companion Pass, the applicant must firstly qualify for a Disabled Pass in their own right. Therefore, the need for companion entitlement must either be, permanent, have lasted or likely to last 12 months, or recurring. It is proposed that short term need is also considered in respect of those Disabled Pass holders who are terminally ill and require companion entitlement.

The effect of the disability on the Companion Pass holder, may worsen or diminish at different times throughout the year, but in applying the assessment criteria, it must be satisfied that it will have (or be likely to have) a substantial effect throughout the period.

Proposed assessment process, as below:

1. Applicant to complete 'Disabled Pass application form', specifying Companion need and a personal statement as to why they feel they can't travel unaided.
2. Background checks are undertaken using records held by Social Care.
3. DBC Occupational Therapist (OT) has telephone conversation with customer, if required, using assessment criteria.
4. A face to face assessment is undertaken by OT, if required, using assessment criteria.

In applying the criteria to someone's need for companion entitlement, whilst the assessment will focus on the bus journey itself, specifically around an individual's ability to board the bus; travel to a given destination and alight from the bus, their wider needs will also be considered on a case by case basis.

The application form will be designed but will be based on the following proposed criteria:

<u>Is/has the need for companion entitlement (at least one must be applicable):</u>	
<u>Permanent</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lasted 12 months</u> <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Likely to last 12 months</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Likely to recur</u> <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Short Term (DS5100 – Terminally Ill)</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	

Assessment Criteria

1. Requires assistance with managing a mobility aid (attendant controlled wheelchair/wheeled walker or bulky equipment needed to maintain health).
2. Needs assistance to plan a bus journey/ select correct bus/advise driver of destination and cope with any changes to the schedule.
3. Needs assistance to swipe bus pass on the card reader.
4. On the bus, needs prompting, either verbal or physical to manoeuvre to a seat, get seated, and/or rise from seat again.
5. Would need assistance to ensure alight at the correct destination.
6. Would need assistance to press the bell to let the driver know of need to alight.
7. Would need assistance to cope with/identify potentially unsafe situations when travelling by bus including interactions with others, managing oneself, and managing own possessions.
8. Would be unsafe/vulnerable travelling without assistance or would find the journey confusing/disorientating/distressing.
9. Would need assistance from someone to assist with a medical condition whilst using the bus.
10. Would require general assistance/supervision on the bus to ensure safety and well being of self and that of others.

Please note that assistance may not be required for every journey.