

To all Operators in Suffolk
By email

AC
2 March 2011

Dear Operator

Suffolk Concessionary Travel Scheme
Notice in accordance with S.95(1) of the Transport Act 1985 and S.150(1) of the Transport Act 2000

Following agreement by the Travel Concession Authority, I hereby give notice on their behalf that the Arrangements for Reimbursement that will apply with effect from 1 April 2011 have now been published. A copy of the Arrangements for Reimbursement is enclosed. The only changes that have been made since the original proposals were published are in respect of the revised Guidance and Calculator issued by the DfT.

The Scheme Definition has not changed significantly but is also enclosed and reflects the discretionary arrangements that the County proposes to offer at this stage.

Statutory Elements of the Scheme

The published Arrangements for Reimbursement have been determined by the Travel Concession Authority in accordance with Section 149(2) of the Transport Act 2000. They will take effect on 1 April 2011. In accordance with the modifications made in Section 3 of the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 to Section 150 of the Transport Act 2000, operators who consider that they may be prejudicially affected by the published Arrangements for Reimbursement may, within 56 days from 1 April 2011, apply to the Secretary of State for Transport for their modification. Written notice of any such intention must first of all be sent to the Travel Concession Authority at least seven days before any application is made.

Discretionary Elements

The Scheme embodies certain discretionary elements (see the schedule attached to the Scheme Definition) and, as such, is a Scheme established under Section 93 of the Transport Act 1985. For the purposes of Section 95(2) of the Transport Act 1985, this letter serves as the required notice of variation in respect of the discretionary elements of the Scheme.

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The Travel Concession Authority expects operators to participate voluntarily in these discretionary elements unless any operator serves notice as set out in the Arrangements for Reimbursement that they wish to withdraw from voluntarily participation. Such notice should be served in writing to MCL Transport Consultants Ltd., following which a Participation Notice will be served on behalf of the Travel Concession Authority. An operator may apply to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Participation Notice to be lifted within 28 days of any such Notice coming into force. Written notice of any such intention must first of all be sent to the Travel Concession Authority at least seven days before any application is made. Until a determination is made by the Secretary of State, the operator must accept and be reimbursed for the discretionary concessions.

Proposed Consultation Arrangements

Your attention is drawn in particular to Annex A of the Arrangements for Reimbursement which details how the Scheme will utilise the new DfT Calculator and Guidance. Enclosed is an additional sheet showing the parameters that have been used to formulate working values for your individual company's reimbursement under the above Scheme. If you wish to request a review of any of the parameters that have been identified in the Arrangements for Reimbursement, then you must provide to MCL Transport Consultants:

- A fully completed DfT Calculator
- Notification of the parameters you wish to challenge
- Full details as to why your figures are more appropriate to use
- Substantiating evidence to support your figures.

Any request for review must be submitted by 15th April 2011 to enable any differences to be resolved ahead of the appeals deadline.

The Travel Concession Authority reserves the right to request audit certification of any data that it cannot independently verify. Any agreed changes that result in increased reimbursement will be implemented at the next available reconciliation quarter and interim payments already notified will not be adjusted. The changes will, however be backdated to the start of the scheme year.

Old Scheme Closure

As a result of the transfer of responsibility to upper tier authorities from 1st April 2011, all "old" schemes will close at the final reconciliation of the Quarter 4 accounts. No retrospective claims will be considered after 31st March 2011.

If you have any questions concerning these documents please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



Miss Anne Clark
Associate Director

Cc Travel Concession Authority