

**From:** Byrne, Elizabeth [mailto:Elizabeth.Byrne@alzheimers.prg.uk]  
**Sent:** 01 July 2009 14:07  
**To:** ATS Info  
**Subject:** FAO Janet Watson  
**Importance:** High

Janet, I spoke briefly on the phone to one of your colleagues this morning and agreed to follow up by email.

As you are currently consulting on Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan (2009~2012) I would like to draw to your attention an issue which has significant negative impact on people with dementia, who qualify for a senior smartpass, entitling them to free travel in Northern Ireland. .

Where a person with dementia needs to travel accompanied because of their health condition, but their carer or friend is of modest means and not old enough to qualify for a senior smartpass, the ability of the person with dementia to avail of their right to free travel can be totally undermined.

Provision of a scheme designed to support the right of people with dementia to access free travel by extending it to their designated companion, would address this inequity. It would go some way to realising ATS vision of enabling people with disabilities and older people to participate fully in society, to enjoy independence and to experience the best quality of life possible. This is a vision which Alzheimer's Society wholeheartedly supports.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require any further information. With thanks. Elizabeth

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