



**DUNGANNON  
& SOUTH TYRONE**

Borough Council

Jane Watson  
Room 301  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast BT2 8GB

RECEIVED

20 MAY 2009

RPTD

12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Dear Ms Watson


**RE: Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2009 - 2012**

In response to the above Plan, Council would like to raise an issue it has brought to the attention of the Minister for Regional Development and other relevant departments over the last number of years.

Council would propose that the Department would give serious consideration to a policy for free travel for people with disabilities and their carers on public transport. This would provide a key service to a vulnerable group and support increased participation in public life under the Disability Discrimination Order 2006. It would also provide greater synergy with provision in the Republic of Ireland and would support further cross border travel links.

We do appreciate that the Minister has previously submitted 'Extending free travel to people with disabilities' under the Comprehensive Spending Review, however resources were not available at this time. Given that the Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan is to 2012, Council would be keen to see such proposals publically kept on the agenda and continue to be prioritised for potential finance. To note Council would be keen to have such a policy further extended to include free travel for carers accompanying people with disabilities.

Yours sincerely



Alan Burke  
Acting Chief Executive

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*Comhairle Dhúin Geanainn agus Thír Eoghain Theas*

*Rathgannon Sooth Owenslann Burgh Council*

