

Petitioner submission of 17 July 2023

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

We thank the [Scottish Government for the detailed response](#) to the petition.

We would like to highlight the other pilots and testimonies which have been gathered across Scotland which highlight the importance of statutory concessionary travel for people seeking asylum in Scotland.

These include a pilot in Aberdeen **with First Bus which supported 80 of 91 people seeking asylum in the city** and another pilot in Falkirk which provided support for those who are currently placed in hotel accommodations. The current pilot run by Refugee Survival Trust is welcome but should not be considered in isolation. We feel strongly that other pilots which have taken place and produced a strong evidence base should also be considered by the Scottish Government as part of their work on exploring free bus travel options for people seeking asylum.

The working group formed to bring together third sector organisations, including Maryhill Integration Network, Scottish Refugee Council, JustRight Scotland, Voices Network, others, and Transport Scotland is also a vital means of gathering knowledge from the refugee sector on this issue and we would encourage the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland to continue engaging with the working group so that further valuable evidence and knowledge can feed into its work on free bus travel.