

**Passenger and Accessible Transport Service**  
London Borough of Camden  
PO Box 64175  
London WC1A 9BY  
Tel 020 7974 6435  
Fax 020 7974 5540  
[pats@camden.gov.uk](mailto:pats@camden.gov.uk)  
[www.camden.gov.uk](http://www.camden.gov.uk)

21st April 2011

Dear Freedom Pass Holder,

### **Important changes to Camden Council's discretionary Freedom Pass (mental health)**

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the adult social care consultation in relation to the provision of discretionary Freedom Passes for people with a severe and long term mental health condition. As part of its savings proposals and in order to meet the financial challenges it faces, the Council agreed at the Cabinet meeting on 6 April 2011 to stop funding the discretionary Freedom Pass for people with a mental health disability who do not otherwise qualify.

This means that from **Monday 30 May 2011**, your discretionary Freedom Pass will no longer be valid for free travel on London's public transport network and it will stop working in barriers or card readers on public transport. All current Freedom Passes are printed with the expiry date of March 2015, but they will stop working on 30 May 2011. We can automatically deactivate them so you do not need to return your pass to the Council. However we ask that you **do not attempt** to travel using it. Please cut the pass in half after this date. If a public transport staff member asks you to hand over your pass because it is invalid you must do so.

The Council wishes to enable you to get other support and assistance where possible. You may be eligible for the following:

- If you are aged 60 or over, you may qualify for an older persons' Freedom Pass and we will arrange for this to be issued to you automatically; you do not need to contact us.

- You may qualify for a statutory disabled persons' Freedom Pass if you meet the Transport Act 2000 criteria because you:

1. are blind or partially sighted
2. are profoundly or severely deaf
3. are without speech
4. have a disability or have suffered an injury which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on your ability to walk
5. do not have any arms or have long-term loss of the use of both arms
6. have a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind, which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning
7. **would, if you applied for a driving licence under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have your application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) other than on the grounds of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.**

If you have a severe mental disorder you may qualify under criteria 7 (overleaf) because you are unfit to drive and would be refused a driving licence. People do not need to have applied for a driving licence to satisfy this criterion. If this applies to you, please take the enclosed form to the practitioner involved in your care who is best placed to respond to the questions. This may be your GP, consultant psychiatrist, psychologist or other professional.

Please return your medical form to us as soon as possible and preferably before your current Freedom Pass is deactivated.

If you have a disability that meets any of the Transport Act criteria, you can download an application form from the council's website [camden.gov.uk](https://www.camden.gov.uk) (type 'Freedom Pass' into the search field) or contact us for a form to be sent to you in the post.

- To further help you, we are enclosing details of other travel support that may help you to get out and about. You can also refer to the council's website for details of other accessible transport schemes [camden.gov.uk/pats](https://www.camden.gov.uk/pats)

If you have a specific question or concern, please contact us on 020 7974 6435 or email us at [pats@camden.gov.uk](mailto:pats@camden.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josephine Allman', written over a horizontal line.

**Josephine Allman**  
**Head of Passenger and Accessible Transport Service**  
**Housing and Adult Social Care Directorate**