

Influencers, charities and transport partners sign open letter calling for consideration as public transport usage increases

May 26, 2021



Department
for Transport

Help make a world of difference



Following the continued easing of COVID restrictions and the return of many to public transport, a coalition of influencers, disability charities and transport operators have joined forces with the Department for Transport (DfT) calling on passengers to see this re-emergence as a chance to rethink travel habits and help create a more inclusive transport environment for everyone.

This week, an open letter has been published to that effect.

The letter, signed by a range of influencers, is supported by charities including Scope, Leonard Cheshire and the Royal National Institute of Blind People, and is backed by many of the country's biggest transport providers.

It asks the public to show consideration to fellow passengers and to be more mindful of the needs of others, highlighting ways in which we can all nurture a culture of support.

It also addresses issues faced specifically by disabled people when returning to the transport network, encouraging everyone to be more aware, supportive and considerate of those around them, while being mindful that not all disability is visible.

'It's everyone's journey'

- The 'it's everyone's journey' campaign follows the DfT's latest campaign research, revealing that, after Covid concerns, **one of the greatest barriers to public transport** among disabled transport passengers is currently other people.
- **One in four** disabled users of public transport say that other passengers make them anxious or nervous. According to research, the majority of public transport users recently surveyed (**75%**) feel that passengers hold at least some of the responsibility for helping to improve journeys for disabled people.
- Despite a marked change in passenger attitudes, this still leaves **1 in 4** public transport users feeling that other passengers are not considerate of those around them.

Small Changes, Big Impact

'It's everyone's journey' calls for small changes, that can make a #WorldOfDifference. These actions include –

- Recognising and understanding that not everyone can wear a face covering, due to medical exemptions.
- Making space. Some people will rely on others to social distance on their behalf.
- Being patient and prepared to help each other, but always asking first.
- Keeping priority seats and designated wheelchair spaces clear for those that need them
- Remembering that not all disability is visible.
- And above all, showing consideration for each other.

Transport Minister Chris Heaton-Harris said: "As COVID-restrictions lift, we are emerging into a different world. The return to public transport presents us with both challenges and opportunities. With new measures in place to keep us all safe, we also have a unique opportunity to rethink how we travel. This campaign looks to highlight ways every passenger can help create a public transport environment that is more inclusive for all."

Signatory, Dan Jones, creator of The Aspie World YouTube channel and podcast which is the UK's #1 resource for Asperger's, ADHD, OCD and Dyslexia, said: "Don't judge or stare if an autistic person is Stimming (rocking, flapping hands) to cope with social anxiety on public transport."

Full List of Open Letter Signatories

Amit Patel @BlindDad_UK

Carrie-Ann Lightly @CarrieAnnLightlyBlog

Connor Ward @ConnorWardUK

Daniel Jones @TheAspieWorld

Emily Davison @FashionEyesta2012

Rosie Jones @JosieRones

Shona Louise @ShonaLouiseBlog

Tania Dutton @WhenTaniaTalks

Disability Charities and Organisations

Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)

National Autistic Society (NAS)

Parkinson's

Alzheimer's Society

Leonard Cheshire

Scope

Transport Operators and Companies

Go Ahead Group

Stagecoach

National Express West Midlands

First Bus

Network Rail

Arriva Bus

Rail Delivery Group

Confederation of Passenger Travel (CPT)

Transport for London (TFL)

Dear fellow passengers,

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, new measures are in place to keep us all safe on public transport. The return to transport also gives us a chance to think about how we travel.

By being more considerate of each other on public transport we can create a more inclusive environment, one that's better for everyone.

One in five people in the UK are disabled, and many of us may face cognitive and physical challenges at different times in our lives.

We can help make everyone's journey better by:

- Understanding that not everyone can wear a face covering, due to medical exemptions.
- Making space. Some people will rely on others to social distance on their behalf.
- Remembering that not all disability is visible.
- And above all, showing consideration for each other.

These small changes can make a world of difference.

If we all try to be there for each other, and are mindful and considerate when we travel, we can help get life back on track for everyone.

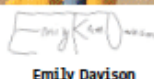
Show your support by joining the conversation with [#WorldOfDifference](#).

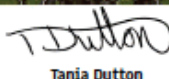
With thanks,

everyonesjourney.campaign.gov.uk




Daniel Jones

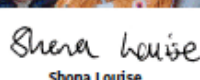

Emily Davison

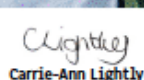

Tania Dutton

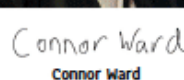

Rosie Jones




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Shona Louise


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