



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

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## **WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT**

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**Title: Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative**

**Date: 10 March 2009**

**By: Ieuan Wyn Jones, Deputy First Minister and Minister for the  
Economy and Transport**

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The Community Transport Concessionary Fares Initiative (CTCFI) was created to test the provision of more accessible travel opportunities for severely disabled people who are unable to use, or do not have access to, conventional local bus services. The Welsh Assembly Government has provided £3.9m to fund the full costs of this initiative so far.

Today I am announcing that I have agreed to provide further funding of £1m in 2009-10 to take forward the initiative.

An independent study has been carried out by Capita Symonds to evaluate the success of the initiative. A copy of the Executive Summary and Final Report is available from the Internet.

The study identified several clear benefits from the initiative and that a number of issues needed to be addressed before it would be possible to introduce a national travel concessionary scheme for severely disabled people.

The evidence from the study does, therefore, suggest that there is merit in continuing with the initiative for a further 3 years until 31 March 2012. Extending the initiative will allow us to build on the success that the pilots have achieved over the last 3 years whilst seeking to address the issues that have been found during the evaluation.

The overall aim will be to develop a model that provides an acceptable level of concessionary travel; supports the broader development of the community transport sector and is more sustainable in the longer term.

I will set out in due course more detailed plans about how we plan to take this work forward.