

# Free bus travel for people seeking asylum in London

December 2025

The Helen Bamber Foundation (HBF) is a specialist clinical and human rights charity that works with survivors of trafficking, torture and other forms of extreme human cruelty and believes that all survivors should have safety, freedom and power. Our work alongside survivors shows us that, with early and appropriate care and support, they build the strength to move on with their lives. Our multidisciplinary and clinical team provides a bespoke Model of Integrated Care for survivors which includes medico-legal documentation of physical and psychological injuries; specialist programmes of therapeutic care; a medical advisory service; a counter-trafficking programme; housing and welfare advice; legal protection advice; and community integration activities and services.

All of our clients live in London and many receive asylum support, including under section 95, section 98 and section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The low asylum support rates affect them in myriad ways, permeating much of their life in the UK and acting to the detriment of their emotional, material and physical wellbeing. Many of our clients report that they struggle to attend important meetings such as hospital appointments because of the cost of public transport.

This proposal looks at the challenges facing survivors of torture and trafficking living in London who are reliant on Home Office asylum support, and calls for the provision of free bus travel within London zones 1-6 to those seeking asylum. This would ensure that people seeking asylum are able to travel to necessary appointments, access services and live their lives with more freedom and dignity.

## Home Office support for people seeking asylum

People seeking asylum in the UK can apply for financial support and accommodation under section 95 or section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if they meet the destitution criteria. Section 95 support, for those with an initial asylum claim or appeal, consists of a weekly payment of £49.18 per person loaded onto a pre-paid Aspen card and, if needed, accommodation which can be catered or non-catered. For those living in catered accommodation such as hotels or hostels, the weekly payment is reduced to £9.95.<sup>1</sup> People whose initial asylum claims have been refused, and who have made further submissions to be considered as a fresh claim for asylum, are supported under section 4(2) of the Act. While the rates are the same, the support provided is cashless, meaning that individuals cannot withdraw money from their card. Extra payments are available for families with children or pregnant people, although these are not automatically provided and must be applied for.

The rates of asylum support are decided by the Home Office and are reviewed each year. The Home Office decides these rates by:

- “a) identifying all essential living needs that are not covered in some other way (for example through the provision of in-kind support); and*
- b) assessing the amount of money the average asylum seeker needs to meet each need.”<sup>2</sup>*

Asylum support rates have fallen significantly over the past three decades. Prior to 1999, asylum seekers accessed mainstream benefits and were paid 90% of the standard rate.<sup>3</sup> In 1999, a separate system of asylum support was established, with support set at 70% of income support for those with a current claim and a separate, lower rate for those whose claims had been refused. In 2008, the rate of asylum support was de-linked from mainstream benefits, with the Home Office determining the rate on an annual basis. In 2014, following an unsuccessful judicial review of asylum support rates, the Home Office shifted to a flat rate of individual payments, resulting in a drop in payments for some groups. Payments for children were cut by 30%.<sup>4</sup>

The Home Office now sets the rate of asylum support according to its own assessment of what it deems is necessary to cover ‘essential living needs’, based on Office of National Statistics (ONS) data and market research (crucially, travel is not considered an ‘essential need’).<sup>5</sup> As a result, asylum support payments are substantially lower than mainstream

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<sup>1</sup> [Asylum support: What you'll get](#)

<sup>2</sup> Home Office, [Report on review of weekly allowances paid to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers: 2023](#), Updated 13 November 2025

<sup>3</sup> Home Affairs Committee, [Seventh Report - Asylum](#), 2013.

<sup>4</sup> [Explanatory Memorandum to the Asylum Support \(Amendment No. 3\) Regulations 2015 No. 1501](#)

<sup>5</sup> Home Office, [Report on review of weekly allowances paid to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers: 2023](#), Updated 13 November 2025

benefit payments – for a single person aged over 25, asylum support is only just over half (53%) of the amount of Universal Credit they would receive.<sup>6</sup> Following the 2024 review, the Home Office increased the standard weekly allowance for individuals in catered accommodation to £9.95 (from £8.86); it did not change the allowance for those in self-catered accommodation and this remains at £49.18 per week.

Current asylum support rates are far too low to allow for people seeking asylum to lead independent, dignified lives. Many of our clients do not have enough money to cover their basic needs and must choose between buying food and attending appointments. Our clients often have to borrow money from friends, or even strangers, in order to cover their basic costs; one client recently had to ask a passer-by for £3 so he could pay his train fare to get to an appointment.

### Travel as an essential need

In its assessment of the amount of financial support to provide to people seeking asylum, the Home Office has repeatedly asserted that travel is not an ‘essential need’ but that it “may be necessary in limited circumstances to enable other needs to be met, including those related to maintaining interpersonal relationships and a minimum level of participation in social, cultural and religious life”.<sup>7</sup>

In our extensive experience working with people seeking asylum, travel *is* essential to ensuring they can fulfil their other key essential needs, including access to adequate food, healthcare and education.

The Home Office currently allocates £6.00 a week to travel (see Appendix I for a breakdown). The report published by the Home Office into how rates are calculated states that this amount should be enough to cover the cost of at least one return bus journey a week or two single trips.<sup>8</sup> In Greater London the cost of a travelling by bus for up to an hour is £1.75.<sup>9</sup> Those with a mental or physical disability are likely to need to take a bus to travel just a short distance (e.g. to their GP surgery or to a larger shop to buy food) – to do this just once a week costs £3.50 in total, leaving enough for just an additional single bus journey. It remains unclear why the Home Office assumes that people seeking asylum only need to make one return bus journey per week.

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<sup>6</sup> [Universal Credit: What you'll get - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-what-youll-get). As of April 2025, the rate for a single adult over 25 is £400.14 a month, which works out annually to be £92.34 a week.

<sup>7</sup> Home Office, [Report on review of weekly allowances paid to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers: 2021](#), April 2022

<sup>8</sup> Home Office, [Report on review of weekly allowances paid to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers: 2023](#), May 2024

<sup>9</sup> [Bus and tram fares - Transport for London \(tfl.gov.uk\)](https://tfl.gov.uk/fares-and-tickets/bus-tram-fares)

The limited rate of asylum support makes it extremely difficult for people seeking asylum to engage in any other activities, due to prohibitive travel costs. These include accessing college and other educational bodies, taking children to school, social support networks, volunteer work and religious and/or cultural establishments. The inability to travel for such purposes increases social isolation, prevents people from learning English and integrating within their communities more generally and causes a deterioration in mental health. The inability to travel elsewhere other than the immediate vicinity of their accommodation, combined with the often-poor quality of asylum support accommodation, increases feelings of hopelessness and negatively impacts mental health.

*"Ultimately, if you cannot afford to travel, what do you spend your time doing? Locked in your room, recounting the trauma you have been through to get here and with no outlet available for you to have an activity or something to look forward to. Your mental health deteriorates really, really quickly. It is just a natural human instinct not to be alone. So being able to travel at a cost that is not prohibitive should not be a thing people need to think about, it should just be available."*

HBF Client

Many of our clients suffer from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as other severe mental health conditions including major depressive disorder, anxiety, and psychosis and need to attend our offices for specialised Trauma Focused Therapy. Trauma Focused Therapy requires clients to discuss the multiple traumatic events that they have experienced in the past in detail, and, in our experience, people can often experience a temporary resurgence in some symptoms of their PTSD in the days after sessions. Many have 'dissociative' symptoms, have episodes in which they go 'blank' and are transiently unaware of their actions and/or their surroundings. They can become lost while travelling, catching the wrong bus or train and then not know where they are. With such a limited financial support, there is little room for these types of errors, which are common for people with severe mental health conditions and a history of traumatic experiences. Many people end up walking to their destination, a journey which can take several hours and cause both mental and physical exhaustion. Many also do not have friends or family who can support them in making these journeys.

*"I am forgoing medical treatment because all I can think about is how much it is going to cost me. I need to see my GP, get a blood test and to pick up my blood pressure monitor but these will all be separate trips. I can't afford to do them all. If I am thinking about getting treatment, I have to think about the long term. It costs me so much to go to one appointment at the hospital. I have to think long and hard about whether it's worth setting me back so much to go to one appointment. If I choose to go to an extra appointment, the whole week, I will not eat anything. I'll go to Sainsburys at 6pm to look at the reduced section for 99p. There are undoubtedly long-term health effects of being consistently malnourished."*

HBF Client

Travel is also essential for people seeking asylum to access and progress in education. Even if an individual is enrolled at a college within walking distance, other courses required for their educational pathways may not be offered locally and they may have to travel to other campuses. Additionally, courses are often offered on different days. In general, fulltime students will be attending courses four days a week, and, if part time, two to three days a week, massively exceeding their weekly allowance. Costs for travel to and from educational services are also impacted when people are forced to move locations without consideration of their current enrolment at local colleges.

An HBF client reported that he walks 40 minutes to and from his local adult education college to study English; he walks because the full-board asylum support rate is not enough to enable him to afford the travel there. His classes are from 9am-5pm, three days per week, meaning that he misses breakfast and lunch provided at the hotel for each of these three days. Whilst this person attempts to integrate better into the UK and advance their understanding of English, they are significantly prohibited from doing so, and they arrive and leave college each day very hungry.

### Existing policies to support travel for people seeking asylum

The rates of support are intended for the 'able-bodied destitute' not those with 'complicated disability or health problems' as the Home Office argues "where individuals can show they have exceptional needs in order to be able to meet their essential needs, they can apply for additional funds".<sup>10</sup> In reality, however, it is exceptionally difficult for people seeking asylum to access additional funds.

#### *Support for travel to Home Office and legal appointments*

The Home Office asserts that travel to legal appointments is met through legal aid and travel costs to reporting events, asylum interviews and appeal hearings are paid separately.<sup>11</sup> However, many asylum seekers in receipt of asylum support do not automatically receive travel tickets from the Home Office when they are required to attend reporting centres on a regular basis.

One HBF client, who has to report to the Home Office every week, has to spend about a third of his weekly subsistence allowance just on travelling to Eaton House in Hounslow. Ensuring that a person receives a travel ticket or the balance uploaded to their ASPEN card in the event of the reporting date often requires third-party advocacy.

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<sup>10</sup> [Refugee Action v. Secretary of State for the Home Department](#), [2014] EWHC 1033 (Admin)

<sup>11</sup> Home Office, [2024 Asylum Support Rate Review Summer 2025](#)

While travel to appointments with a person's solicitor can be reimbursed via the Legal Aid Agency,<sup>12</sup> many solicitors are unaware of this and therefore do not inform clients of this nor apply for this disbursement. In addition, many of our clients lack knowledge of this disbursement, as well as often the literacy and confidence (as well as other skills affected by their severe mental health conditions, for example adequate concentration amidst dissociative episodes) required to request their solicitor to reimburse their travel expenses, and to continue to request this on a regular basis.

### *NHS funding*

The NHS Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme (HTCS) can refund reasonable travel costs if a person has been referred to hospital or other NHS premises for specialist NHS treatment or diagnostic tests. However, this excludes visits to a GP, dentist or other primary care service provider, including antenatal care.

One HBF client was referred to free physiotherapy by her GP but it was a floating service based in the building of a private clinic, so she was unable to ask for reimbursement via the HTCS as it wasn't in a hospital or NHS building. She struggled to afford the travel to the appointments, which were weekly for six weeks.

Furthermore, in our experience the HTCS is not well known among asylum seekers who require specialist NHS treatment, and fall within the eligibility of the HTCS, nor is it actually accessible. Many hospitals have no or only a partially staffed cashier's desk, and so people seeking asylum who do know about the HTCS are unlikely to have their travel money reimbursed on the same day. Prompt reimbursement is essential when the weekly rate of support is so low. If the travel costs are claimed retrospectively, we understand that the NHS usually does this in the form of a cheque. Given that people seeking asylum are largely prohibited from opening a bank account, it is difficult, if not impossible, to cash and receive retrospectively reimbursed travel money.

### *Travel bursaries from colleges*

Accessing travel bursaries from colleges is challenging. Colleges often tell people seeking asylum that they are not eligible for travel bursaries because either a) they are an asylum seeker, or b) they don't have a bank account. While colleges in London should be able to issue people seeking asylum with travel passes or cash payments according to Greater London Authority funding guidance (if they meet the eligibility criteria),<sup>13</sup> based on our experience they never seem to do this. Many colleges have a policy to not cover travel costs

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<sup>12</sup> According to the Legal Aid Agency's 2013 Standard Civil Contract Specification

<sup>13</sup> GLA Adult Skills Fund 2025 to 2026 - [Funding and performance management rules for grant-funded providers](#). Para 187 states "If an asylum seeker is eligible for provision, you may provide learner support in the form of course-related books, equipment, cash payments or a travel pass."

unless a student lives more than 2km away from college, and 2km is still a long way to walk, especially if the individual is dealing with additional physical and mental health issues. If a college does offer a travel bursary, there are often delays (up to four to six weeks) before the person receives this funding and they are often unable to self-fund the first four to six weeks of travel, impacting their attendance and their ability to fully participate in the course, and in some cases risking being removed from the course due to strict attendance criteria.

### *Local authority support*

In England, our clients often struggle to obtain local authority support as they are unable to prove their needs fall under the Care Act 2014. The prohibitively high eligibility threshold within the Care Act excludes many people, with severe or chronic disabilities or health conditions, from accessing support within the UK and this, added to the fact that many new arrived people seeking asylum do not yet have the supporting medical evidence they need, means it is almost impossible for people seeking asylum to access local authority support.

### *Freedom passes*

Disabled Person's Freedom Passes, provided by local authorities across London, are available for those with certain statutory disabilities.<sup>14</sup> However, to prove eligibility for a Freedom Pass, people are required to gather a significant amount of medical evidence, which can differ between London boroughs (this in itself can be a barrier to being able to apply). The vast majority of our clients should be considered disabled under the meaning of the Equality Act 2010, as their mental (and often physical) health concerns are an 'impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on [their] ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'.<sup>15</sup> However, even if they fall under the Equality Act definition, many of our clients fall short of the stringent criteria for a Disabled Person's Freedom Pass, which doesn't use the same definition as the Equality Act. For example, many clients whose long-term mental health conditions, such as PTSD and depression, impact their ability to carry out "normal day to day activities", do not have a learning disability, issues with mobility, nor meet any of the other eligibility criteria (see appendix II) and so would not be deemed eligible for a pass.

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<sup>14</sup> London Councils, [Disabled persons Freedom Pass eligibility](#)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/part/2>

One HBF client (a survivor of torture and sexual abuse) has severe physical health problems impacting his mobility as a result of his ill treatment. He walks with the aid of two crutches and is on the waiting list for a total hip replacement. He has numerous appointments including scans, physio and blood tests which he cannot afford to get to and sometimes has to walk 30 minutes to the hospital because he can't afford public transport. He applied for a Disabled Person's Freedom Pass and was waiting for his physical assessment when he was advised that the appointment had been cancelled and his application refused. The refusal letter did not expand on why this was the decision, just that he did not meet the criteria. It did however take pains to outline what benefits support someone's application, Personal Independence Payment and Disability Allowance being the main two – none of which asylum seekers are eligible for as they have No Recourse to Public Funds (i.e. they cannot claim welfare benefits). HBF are supporting the client to challenge this but in the meantime, he must risk further damage to his body by increasing the strain just to get to his medical appointments – or indeed, not attend at all and miss out on vital medical attention.

### *Existing Transport for London (TFL) concessions*

In our experience, it can be difficult for people seeking asylum to apply for other concessionary travel cards where eligibility criteria are more easily met, including the Older Person's Freedom Pass and the 60+ London Oyster photocard. For several clients who are over the age of 60 or State Pension Age and living in a London borough (and therefore automatically eligible for those concessions), we have had to provide extensive third-party advocacy over several months to confirm their eligibility to TFL or the local authority, due to the requirements to provide photographic ID and specific types of proof of address, which many people seeking asylum do not have, as well as the £20 fee applicable for the photocard.

There are others schemes available for free or discounted travel in London<sup>16</sup> but many people seeking asylum are unable to benefit from these. The Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount is a clear example, as people seeking asylum in the UK are prohibited from working or accessing public funds and so are automatically barred from this scheme.

Crucially, none of the existing concessions applies *universally* to those seeking asylum and so their existence, amended or not, does not resolve the clear and urgent need for a broader provision of free bus travel.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel>



## Proposal: Bus travel for people seeking protection in London

*“Being isolated when you are vulnerable and not being able to go anywhere is not right. To quote Sadiq Khan “we want to welcome all refugees when they arrive in the city”. Integrating means meeting people and learning about the culture. If people are forced to be isolated, they won’t integrate with the community and then people will blame them for it later.”*

HBF Client

It is clear that many people seeking asylum with additional needs are falling through the gaps. Despite years of advocacy from those working with refugees and people seeking asylum, the Home Office has refused to increase asylum support rates to the extent that those dependent on that form of support can actually cover their living needs. As of September 2025, there were just over 18,000 people in receipt of asylum support in London (see Appendix III for breakdown by local authority).<sup>17</sup> **Free bus travel within London zones 1-6, provided as standard at the point when asylum support is granted would go a very long way to ensuring that those seeking protection are able to access the support and services they need.**

The Mayor of London has committed to supporting people seeking asylum, and recognised in his social integration strategy that “there are specific barriers faced by migrant and refugee communities to participating in and contributing to life in London”.<sup>18</sup> Providing free bus travel would address one of those key barriers. Last year the London Assembly called on the Mayor to work with partners, including voluntary sector organisations working directly with asylum seekers, to support public transport access for asylum seekers, and to design a long-term solution.<sup>19</sup>

Free bus travel is being offered in other parts of the UK. This month saw the start of the Scottish government’s scheme offering free bus travel to those seeking asylum in Scotland via a National Entitlement Card (NEC) - available until 31 March 2026 or until funding runs out.<sup>20</sup> Pilot schemes offering free travel have been offered in Oxford,<sup>21</sup> Wales and in Northern Ireland. Although the scheme in Wales was discontinued in July 2024, there was widespread recognition of the benefits that the scheme offered and the Welsh Government confirmed that they were looking into alternative options for a new phase of the scheme.<sup>22</sup> The evaluation of the scheme in Northern Ireland found that between 97% and 99% of

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<sup>17</sup> 18,127. See Immigration System Statistics year ending September 2025: [Asylum and Protection - Asylum seekers in receipt of support by Local Authority](#)

<sup>18</sup> [All of Us: The Mayor’s Strategy for Social Integration](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Mayor urged to help asylum seekers with public transport costs | London City Hall](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Free bus travel for people seeking asylum in Scotland - mygov.scot](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Pilot bus travel scheme to help asylum seekers in Oxford](#)

<sup>22</sup> Welsh Government, [Written Statement: Welcome Ticket \(7 March 2024\)](#); Welsh Refugee Council, [Update on The Welcome Ticket](#), March 2024

participants found that free travel helped their mental health and well-being, made it easier to travel to services and appointments.<sup>23</sup> It also opened up new opportunities to volunteer, gain new skills, and contribute to society. The scheme in Wales resulted in an increase in people taking part in education; volunteering; integration activities; and being able to attend appointments. It increased people's wellbeing and enabled them to socialise and take up opportunities. One recipient said "having bus travel made them have a life worth living."<sup>24</sup>

Based on our experience of supporting clients to access other forms of support, we would advocate a system which involves as little administrative burden as possible. On presentation of a valid Application Registration Card, bus passes could be supplied to people seeking asylum for a 12-month period – based on currently waiting times for asylum decisions this would cover the period in which most people were seeking asylum without the need to repeat onerous applications. Some individuals will already be eligible for existing concessions, based on age or disability.

By providing people seeking asylum with free bus travel, they would be able to more easily meet their needs including "those related to maintaining interpersonal relationships and a minimum level of participation in social, culture and religious life" as well as attending important appointments with their solicitor or healthcare provider. **This would mean that people's general wellbeing would be improved, reducing pressure on statutory health services in London. In addition, it would allow people seeking asylum to retain a level of independence and dignity which is too often removed from them.**

For more information, contact

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<sup>23</sup> [Local Links Pilot - Evaluation Report](#)

<sup>24</sup> Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Migration, [Meeting Minutes](#), 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## Appendix I - Asylum support calculations

Since 2021 the Home Office has not set out how asylum support rates are broken down – instead the rate has been increased by a different percentage each time. The 2022 figure allowed for the CPI inflation rate of 3.1% while the January 2023 figure includes the 10.1% inflation rate, following the High Court ruling in *R(CB) v Secretary of State for the Home Department*.<sup>25</sup> In January 2024, the rate of support was increased to £49.18 for those in receipt of financial support only or housed in non-catered accommodation, and £8.86 for those in catered accommodation. In

The Home Office has stated that “CPI is not a wholly accurate measure of amending rates as it is calculated using a basket of goods designed to represent the ‘average’ UK household, and therefore is unlikely to accurately reflect the true change in costs experienced by asylum seekers in meeting their essential living needs.”<sup>26</sup> Therefore it has developed a “bespoke methodology to determine the appropriate weekly subsistence rates for individuals on asylum support” and each of the essential need category rates are decided using a “slightly different approach”. Table 1 below shows the rates in 2021 and the rates for 2024 and 2025 as per the Home Office’s review for self-catered and catered accommodation.

| Table 1                       | 2021 – ‘self-catered’ rate | 2021 – ‘full board’ rate | 2024 – ‘self-catered’ rate | 2024 – ‘full board’ rate | 2025 – ‘self-catered’ rate | 2025 – ‘full board’ rate |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Food and non-alcoholic drinks | £26.89                     | N/A                      | £34.86                     | N/A                      | £31.69                     | N/A                      |
| Toiletries                    | £0.69                      | N/A                      | £0.89                      | N/A                      | £0.92                      | N/A                      |
| Non-prescription medicines    | £0.35                      | £0.35                    | £0.47                      | £0.47                    | £0.49                      | £0.49                    |
| Laundry/toilet paper          | £0.43                      | N/A                      | £0.57                      | N/A                      | £0.55                      | N/A                      |
| Clothing and footwear         | £3.01                      | £3.01                    | £3.43                      | £3.43                    | £3.46                      | £3.46                    |
| Travel                        | £4.70                      | £4.75                    | £4.96                      | £4.96                    | £6.00                      | £6.00                    |
| Communications                | £3.56                      | N/A                      | £4.00                      | N/A                      | £4.21                      | N/A                      |
| <b>Total assessed ‘need’</b>  | <b>£39.63</b>              | <b>£8.11</b>             | <b>£49.18</b>              | <b>£8.86</b>             | <b>£47.32</b>              | <b>£9.95</b>             |
| <b>Total given</b>            | <b>£39.63</b>              | <b>£8.00</b>             | <b>£49.18</b>              | <b>£8.86</b>             | <b>£49.18</b>              | <b>£9.95</b>             |

<sup>25</sup> [2022] EWHC 329 (Admin)

<sup>26</sup> Home Office, [Report on review of weekly allowances paid to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers: 2023](#), May 2024

## Appendix II – Eligibility and process for applying for a Disability Freedom Pass

Those who fulfil the eligibility criteria below and are entitled to a Disabled Persons Freedom Pass must contact their borough for an application form and provide evidence of their eligibility and a colour passport sized photograph. Each borough's application form contains guidance on what documents need to be provided. Once the borough has assessed and confirmed their eligibility their Freedom Pass will be produced and posted to them.<sup>27</sup>

The statutory disabilities which make someone eligible for a disabled persons Freedom Pass are: <sup>28</sup>

- 1) Being blind or partially sighted
- 2) Being profoundly or severely deaf
- 3) Being without speech
- 4) Having a disability, or having suffered an injury, which has left the individual with a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to walk
- 5) Not having arms or having a long-term loss of the use of both arms
- 6) Having a learning disability that is defined as 'a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning'
- 7) Being in a position where, if they applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, they would have their application refused pursuant to section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

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<sup>27</sup> [Apply for a Disabled Persons Freedom Pass | London Councils](#)

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/freedom-pass/disabled-persons-freedom-pass/eligibility>

### Appendix III – Asylum seekers in receipt of support by Local Authority, at end of September 2025<sup>29</sup>

|                        |       |                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Barking and Dagenham   | 298   | Hillingdon             | 2,345 |
| Barnet                 | 1,588 | Hounslow               | 2,078 |
| Bexley                 | 99    | Islington              | 666   |
| Brent                  | 1,076 | Kensington and Chelsea | 291   |
| Bromley                | 164   | Kingston upon Thames   | 73    |
| Camden                 | 250   | Lambeth                | 511   |
| City of London         | 1     | Lewisham               | 283   |
| Croydon                | 1,270 | Merton                 | 325   |
| Ealing                 | 1,187 | Newham                 | 1,254 |
| Enfield                | 396   | Redbridge              | 629   |
| Greenwich              | 128   | Richmond upon Thames   | 18    |
| Hackney                | 606   | Southwark              | 676   |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 405   | Sutton                 | 28    |
| Haringey               | 154   | Tower Hamlets          | 516   |
| Harrow                 | 348   | Waltham Forest         | 177   |
| Havering               | 187   | Wandsworth             | 64    |
|                        |       | Westminster            | 36    |

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<sup>29</sup> Immigration System Statistics year ending September 2025: [Asylum and Protection - Asylum seekers in receipt of support by Local Authority](#)