

**Minister of Transport Response
to the
Petition of Nick Ruane: Increase funding for Total Mobility Scheme**

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 380

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Introduction

- 1 I have carefully considered the *Petition of Nick Ruane: Increase funding for [the] Total Mobility Scheme*. I have also consulted with the Minister for Disability Issues on my response.
- 2 The petitioner's request is that *the House of Representatives urge the Government to increase funding of the Total Mobility Scheme so that the scheme meets the needs of everyone who delivers or uses it*.
- 3 I am responding to the petition in accordance with Standing Order 380.

Minister of Transport's response

- 4 The Total Mobility scheme (Total Mobility) subsidises taxi fares for people with disabilities that prevent them from using public transport independently some or all of the time. It is funded by the Crown, National Land Transport Fund, and public transport authorities.
- 5 I recognise the importance of Total Mobility to the lives of disabled people, as outlined in the petition. To meet the needs of Total Mobility users and all funders, Total Mobility needs to be financially sustainable to continue over the long term.
- 6 Total Mobility's costs have been escalating unsustainably since changes in 2022 increased the fare subsidy from 50 percent to its current 75 percent. Increased demand means that the scheme is placing significant pressure on the contributions from public transport authorities, the National Land Transport Fund and the Crown.
- 7 In December 2025, the Government announced decisions to stabilise escalating costs for Total Mobility. From 1 July 2026 fare subsidies for Total Mobility users will reduce from 75 percent to 65 percent and fare caps will reduce by 10 percent across the country. These decisions strike a balance between ensuring that Total Mobility is affordable and sustainable for all funders and minimising the impact on Total Mobility users. This was not a cost saving exercise for the Crown, rather these changes will go some way to balance costs and funding over the 2025-2030 period.
- 8 I announced these changes, together with the Minister for Disability Issues, on 16 December 2025, seven days after this petition was presented.
- 9 The Government is also considering proposals to strengthen Total Mobility for users and all funders in the longer term. Public consultation on these proposals ran from 16 December 2025 to 22 March 2026. Feedback from this consultation will inform further advice on proposals to take forward. This includes a proposal to incentivise Total Mobility providers to provide more wheelchair accessible trips, which I note the petitioner has raised.
- 10 The Government will continue to focus on strengthening the scheme for Total Mobility users and all funders in the long term.

Conclusion

- 11 I have responded to the petitioner's concerns. The Government has made changes to ensure Total Mobility can be financially sustainable and continue to provide support to people with disabilities that prevent them from using public transport independently.

Office of the Minister of Transport