



Department for  
**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

Depairtment fur

**Infrastructure**

[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

# Ideas for Changing The SmartPass

## What People Thought



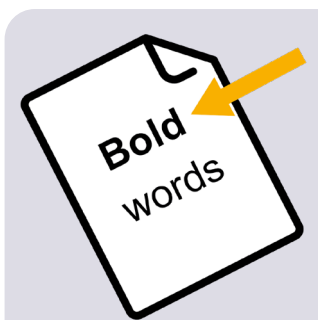
**Easy Read**



This is an Easy Read version of some hard information. It may not include all of the information but will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read information uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a **bold** word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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# What Happened



The **Northern Ireland Government** wanted to know what people thought about their ideas to save money and make the **SmartPass** better for people.



The **SmartPass** gives older and disabled people either free or cheaper fares on buses and trains.



People had to give their answers by 24 August 2023.

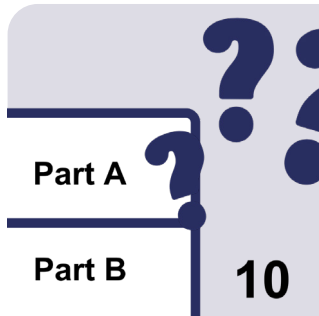


**20,138** people answered.





**The Government  
asked people  
about 10 ideas**



**These were divided into two parts:**

- Save money for the future.
- Help the people who need it most.



The survey was available online and in different formats.

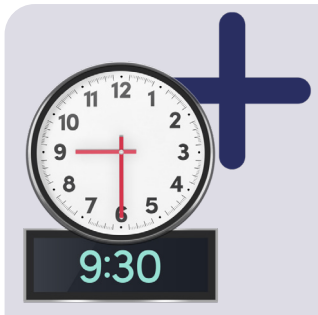


The Government also held 17 meetings to talk to people the changes might affect.

# Ideas to Save Money



Raise the age you get a **SmartPass**.



Change the times you can use your **SmartPass**.

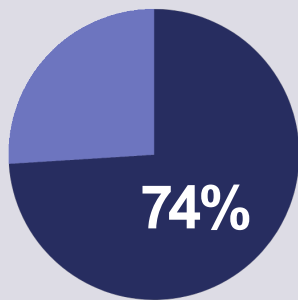


Only let people use the **SmartPass** on buses.

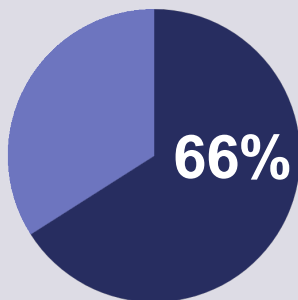


Paying for your **SmartPass**.

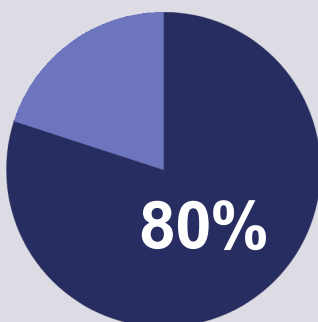
# What People Thought of Our Ideas To Save Money



- **74%** wanted the **SmartPass** age to stay at 60.

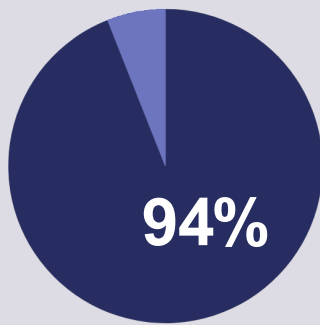


If the age had to be raised, **66%** preferred raising the age to 65 instead of to state pension age.

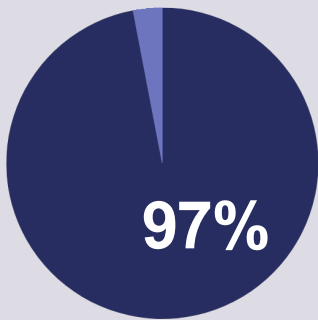


**80%** wanted older people to be able to use their pass at any time of day.

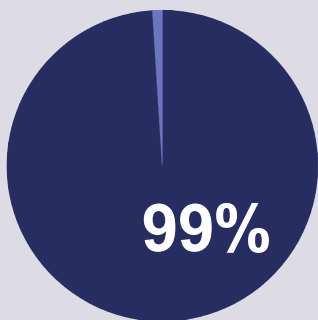




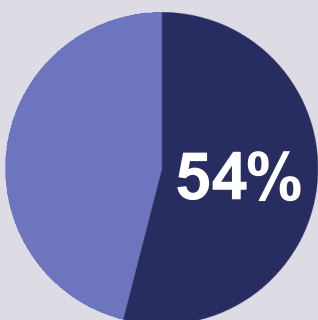
**94%** wanted people with disabilities to be able to use their pass at any time of day.



Over **97%** of people thought older people should be able to use their **SmartPasses** on both buses and trains.



**99%** of people thought that people with disabilities should be able to use their **SmartPass** on both buses and trains.



**54%** did not think people should have to pay a fee for the **SmartPass**.





People thought the ideas to save money could make people feel lonely and unhappy.



People thought that the current plan helps people and the environment.



People thought that not much money would be saved by the ideas and that it would cost older people and people with disabilities more.



People thought the ideas to save money could lead to more car journeys, making the air dirty.



The **SmartPass** is seen as something older people deserve for working hard.

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# What the Government Decided

After listening to what you said about our ideas to save money:



We are keeping the age you can get your **SmartPass** at 60 years of age.



You can still use your **SmartPass** at any time of the day.



You can still use your **SmartPass** on both buses and trains.

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You might have to pay a fee to get your **SmartPass**.



The government needs to charge a fee because the **SmartPass** is expensive.



Some groups, such as people with a disability, may not have to pay the fee.



The government will give more information about this in the future.

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# Ideas to Help People



Free travel for disabled people.



Help for disabled people who cannot travel alone.



Let more disabled people get a **SmartPass**.





Free travel for people who come to this country to be safe.

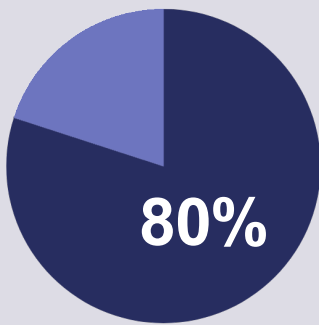


Change the rules about how long you have to live in Northern Ireland to get a **SmartPass**.

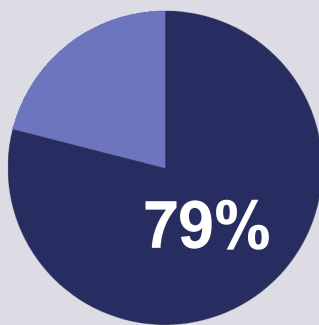


Change what information you have to show to get a **SmartPass**.

# What People Thought of Our Ideas To Help People

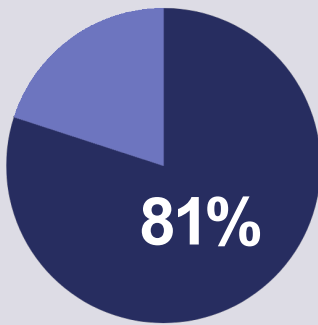


**80%** agreed on free travel for people with disabilities.

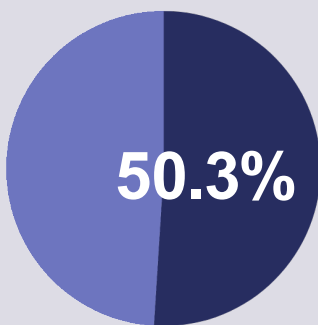


**79%** supported disabled people who cannot travel alone being allowed someone to travel with them on their **SmartPass**.

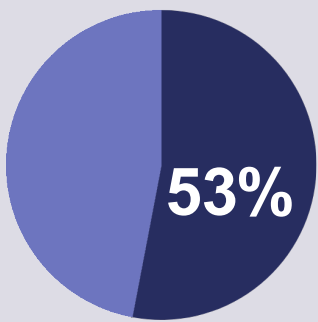




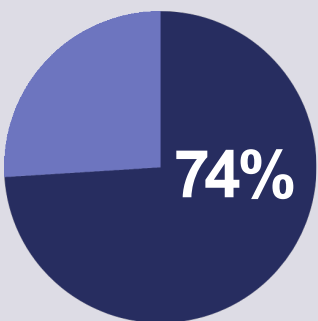
**81%** wanted more disabled people to get a **SmartPass**.



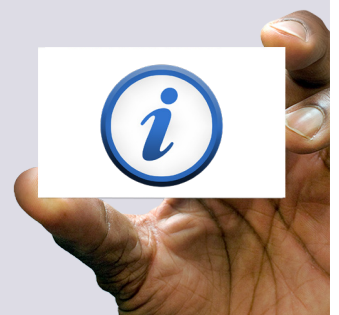
**50.3%** did not want free travel for people who have come to this country to get away from war, or people who have been forced to come to this country.



**53%** wanted to change the rules about how long you have to live in Northern Ireland to get a **SmartPass**.



**74%** wanted to change what information you have to show to get a **SmartPass**.





People thought that helping more people was the right thing to do.



People want the **SmartPass** to help people feel included and happy.



People think it would be fairer if the **SmartPass** offered the same travel help as in other countries, like England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.



People thought that the ideas to help people could stop people using cars, making the air cleaner.

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People worried about choosing who to help.



People worried that that giving more people free travel would hurt the **SmartPass**.



People are worried about some people cheating to get a **SmartPass**.

# What the Government Decided

After listening to what you said about our ideas to help more people:



The rules about how long you have to live in Northern Ireland to get a **SmartPass** will be changed so that it is easier for people to get their card.



The information you have to show to get a **SmartPass** will be changed so that it is easier for people to get their card.

**The government does not have enough money now to bring in these changes:**



Free travel for people with disabilities.



Help for disabled people who cannot travel alone.



Let more disabled people have a **SmartPass**.



Give free travel to people who have come to this country to be safe.



But the money the government has for the Scheme changes each year and we hope we can make these changes in the **future**.

## **For more information:**

### **Contact the**

Concessionary Fares Consultation

3rd Floor

James House

2-4 Cromac Avenue

Belfast

BT7 2JA

Phone: 02890 542977

Website: [www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)