



To: Mr Lenton  
(Sent by e-mail)

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Corporate Services  
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*Date:* 28 March 2012  
*Your ref:*  
*Our ref:* LG1/467  
*Please ask for:* Mr Shaun Walsh  
*Direct Dial no:* 01695 585262  
*Extension:* 5262

Dear Mr Lenton,

#### **PETITION REFERRING TO THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF DISABLED RESIDENTS**

I refer to your petition received on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 regarding the above and to Mrs Denning's letter to you of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Having considered the detail within your petition I'm afraid I cannot recommend that the Council reviews it's decision to reinstate Concessionary Travel within the borough. In arriving at this decision, may I draw your attention to the following points that I have considered in reaching this conclusion:-

- The Borough Council previously debated the issue of Concessionary Travel in great detail during the course of 2010/11, at which time it also undertook a detailed consultation exercise before reaching it's decision to cease funding beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011;
- As I'm sure you are aware, local authorities currently find themselves operating within a very challenging financial environment, whereby extremely difficult decisions have to be made around service delivery. Indeed this is very much the position within West Lancashire and I have to say that these hard choices concerning spending priorities, with ever decreasing resources, are set to continue for the foreseeable future;
- The Council does in fact fund the 'Dial-a-Ride' organisation you mention and this amounts to an annual sum of £28,575 in respect of the current financial year, with a further proposal to commit the same level of funding for 2012/13.

I would confirm that the content of your petition has been noted and shared with senior Cabinet Members, including the Leader of the Council.

Yours sincerely,

**Shaun Walsh  
Transformation Manager**

**Gill Rowe LL.B. (Hons) Solicitor  
Managing Director (People and Places)**

**Kim Webber B.Sc., M.Sc.  
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