

# **Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card Guidance**

## **Introduction**

1. On behalf of the rail network, Rail Delivery Group (RDG) entered into an agreement with Jobcentre Plus to deliver the Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card (TDC). This will continue the provision of reduced rail fares in England, Wales and Scotland.
2. Non JSA Claimants will have access to the card if they are actively engaged with a work coach in getting back to employment. This agreement is now open-ended and will continue until either Rail Delivery Group or Jobcentre Plus wish to end it.
3. The agreement has the following eligibility criteria:

### **In England and Wales & Scotland:**

- Universal Credit claimants in the All Work Related Requirements group from 13 weeks to 39 weeks for ages 18 to 24 and from 13 weeks to 52 weeks for ages 25+
- Universal Credit claimants not in the All Work Related Requirements group who are actively engaged with a Work Services Coach in returning to employment
- JSA Claimants from 13 weeks to 39 weeks for ages 18 to 24 and 13 weeks to 52 weeks for ages 25+
- Employment Support Allowance and Income Support claimants who are actively engaged with a work coach in returning to employment

### **Work coach discretion**

18. When deciding whether to issue a Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card a range of discretionary factors can be considered. The main activity is the claimant's jobsearch activity and whether this demonstrates enough applications and subsequent interviews. The type of work being sought is also a factor as interviews could be further afield requiring support. Activities such as attending training courses or jobsearch facilities should also be considered.

19. Many claimants have access to their own transport and are reluctant to travel via public transport. A key feature of why the transport operators give us support is to encourage wider use of public transport and overcoming a reliance on someone's own transport can give wider job opportunities by travelling more cheaply or further.

20. Other factors to assess awarding the card could be any sanctions imposed for refusing employment or failing to meet the terms of Jobseekers Direction.

21. Ultimately there are a wide range of factors to consider but the main aim is to improve claimants job prospects and the card should not be seen as just an entitlement they must be given.