



PARENTS NEED BUSES TOO!

The Department for Transport issued a consultation, closing in June, on proposals to improve bus services. Worryingly, it included looking at restricting parents with prams or pushchairs in their use of space usually set aside for wheelchair users.

We know from your feedback that for many parents, being forced to fold up buggies and manage more than one child at a time is both difficult and in some cases dangerous. We also heard from parents that are already denied access to buses by drivers who think they must keep the space free. We sent in a formal response making these points and calling for an accommodation that meets the needs of all passengers.

Meanwhile, in London, councillor Caroline Pidgeon (pictured), who chairs the London Assembly's transport committee, took up the issue with the mayor by tabling the question below.

Let us know if his response rings true.
Question 3773/2009: What instructions are bus drivers given about permitting buggies for twins to be taken on board London buses and for them to use the space for wheelchairs – as it is reported that many drivers are refusing to take such buggies unless they are folded?

Answer from the mayor: 'Transport for London advises drivers that passengers with double buggies can board by the centre doors, as it is too difficult for them to get on at the front. Passengers must ask the driver's permission first and show their ticket or pass, or touch their Oyster card on the reader. Single buggies must board by the front door only. There may be occasions when it is necessary for a driver to ask a passenger with a buggy to fold it – for example if the bay is already occupied by another buggy or is required by a wheelchair user. Please forward any reports of drivers not allowing double buggies on board to TfL.' ●