

## Dear Nicola Sturgeon, Douglas Ross, Anas Sarwar, Lorna Slater and Willie Rennie

We are writing to you today as leader of your party to urge you to support the Poverty Alliance *Everyone Aboard* campaign, calling for the extension of free bus travel to everyone receiving Universal Credit (and other low-income benefits) and all young people under 25.

As a society, we believe we should look out for each other. But those whose finances have suffered most during the pandemic, people on low incomes and young people under 25, risk being left behind in our economic and social recovery.

Under 25s have been hit hard by the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis, particularly in relation to employment. As we begin to recover from the effects of the pandemic, access to the labour market will be more important than ever for young people, especially those from rural and remote areas in Scotland, and access to free bus travel would help facilitate this.

Women have also been hit especially hard by the crisis. Women disproportionately rely on buses and are more likely to be living in the grip of poverty, so removing the burden of high ticket costs would help to loosen that grip.

In the next Scottish Parliament, we can reach our child poverty reduction targets. Free buses can play a role in helping to reach these targets by opening access to employment, education, and extra-curricular development opportunities, especially for groups such as lone parents who are more reliant on buses and more likely to live in poverty.

Extending free bus travel to more young people and those receiving Universal Credit would encourage a shift towards public transport use and help make sure no one gets left behind as we transition to more sustainable ways of travelling.

The next Scottish Parliament has the chance to build a Scotland for all of us, one where no one is left behind. On the road to recovery, we can make sure everyone has a seat, by providing free bus travel to everyone receiving Universal Credit (and other low-income benefits) and to all young people under 25. Please support the campaign.

**Yours Faithfully,**



**Peter Kelly**  
**Director, Poverty Alliance**



## Signatories

### Organisations:

Carolyn Sawers, Corra Foundation, Acting CEO

Ewan Aitken, Cyrenians, CEO

Isabella Goldie, Deafblind Scotland, CEO

Morven Brooks, Disability Equality Scotland, CEO

Frazer Scott, Energy Action Scotland, CEO

Martin Dorchester, Includem, CEO

Jonny Kinross, GCP Edinburgh, CEO

Margo Uprichard, The Louise Project, CEO

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Lisa Duthie, Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE), CEO

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Kate Wimpres, SURF, Chair

Rob McDowall FRSA, Welfare Scotland, Chair  
Brenda Carson, STUC Women's Committee, Chair  
Ellie Harrison, Get Glasgow Moving, Chair  
Agnes Tolmie, Scottish Women's Convention, Chair  
Paul O' Connor MBE, Aberdeen SCVO, Chair and Director  
Jacqui Reid, Community Action for Erskine, Chairperson  
Shruti Jain, Saheliya, Chair  
Clair Coyle, West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare, Charity Manager  
Narek Bido, Addictions Support & Counselling, Chief Executive  
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Chief Executive  
Angela Moohan, The Larder, Chief Executive Officer  
Marie Ward, Cranhill Development Trust, Chief Executive  
Michelle Carruthers MBE, The Food Train, Chief Executive  
Kate Polson, Rock Trust, Chief Executive  
Satwat Rehman, One Parent Families Scotland, Chief Executive  
Ian Morrison, Whiteinch & Scotstoun Housing Association, Chief Executive  
Morag Wilson, Stepping Stones North Edinburgh, Chief Executive  
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Jimmy Paul, WEAll Scotland, Director  
Liz McArthur, ReAct, Director  
Colin Campbell, Kidron Project, Director  
John Dickie, CPAG in Scotland, Director  
Hugh Foy, Xaverians UK Region, Director: Programmes and Partnerships  
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Alan Bell, Recharge Youth Centre, Manager  
Tom Heron, The Vennie, Manager  
Frank Mosson, Bridgeton Citizens Advice Bureau, Manager  
Pauline Buchan, The Cottage Family Centre, Manager  
Roger Bromley, Former Professor & former Community Cllr, Member  
Brian Durkin, SSVF Scotland, Member  
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Susan Lyons, Spirit Advocacy  
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### Individuals:

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Angela Feeney, Campaigner  
Judy Hamilton  
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### This campaign is supported by:

