

AMAP CAMPAIGN BRIEFING



SUMMARY

The [Approved Mileage Allowance Payment](#) (AMAP) – which is used by employers and organisations across the UK to reimburse employees and volunteers for the use of their own vehicles in the course of their duties without any tax or benefit implications and any additional, unnecessary red tape – has remained unchanged and unreviewed since 2012.

We are calling on the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury to conduct a [fair, transparent and regular review of the AMAP](#) to deliver an inflationary uplift to the 2012 rate, which will support Community Transport, defend volunteering, strengthen communities and protect the NHS.

Our proposal is the subject of a Spring Budget Representation to HM Treasury.

OUR PROPOSAL

For many employees and volunteers, the 2012 AMAP rate (45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles, 25p per mile thereafter and 5p per passenger) no longer covers the real costs of motoring. [According to the RAC](#), the cost of motoring (including fuel) increased by 39.5% between December 2012 and November 2022. A decade on, the 2012 AMAP rate is archaic, untenable and no longer fit for purpose as inflation hits incomes and threatens to make volunteering unaffordable.

Most Community Transport operators (65%) are reporting lower levels of volunteer recruitment and retention due to soaring fuel costs and an unresponsive AMAP rate. Many essential transport services are at risk, especially non-emergency patient transport provided by volunteers through community car schemes. Fewer Community Transport volunteers and services will mean more missed hospital appointments and delayed discharge (especially for older and disabled people in need of door-through-door accessible transport), longer NHS waiting lists and greater pressure on public services.

Many Community Transport operators have had to cut services (32%) or raise fares (65%) due to the [cost-of-living and running costs crisis](#) facing by charities, community groups and social enterprises across the UK, as well as their employees and volunteers. Difficulties are most acute in Scotland's rural, remote and island communities – many of which [heavily rely on Community Transport services](#) to provide affordable and sustainable access to amenities, education, employment, healthcare or other public services – where transport-related costs can be significantly higher than in urban or mainland communities.

[Research by Volunteer Scotland](#) indicates that over 140,000 Scottish adults give a total of 12.5 million hours of service each year to help transport people or things. This represents an annual economic value of £187.8 million – or £0.5 million of economic activity every single day. They deserve to be fairly and properly reimbursed.

TESTIMONIALS

Sandra McCrory, [Larkhall and District Volunteer Group](#) (Lanark and Hamilton East)

“The current rate no longer reflects the true cost per mile for anyone claiming mileage.”

Annette McKenzie, [Gairloch Community Car Scheme](#) (Ross, Skye and Lochaber)

“The fuel price crisis is a major concern for our rural community and our users. Our local scheme relies on volunteer drivers. Local petrol prices at the pump nearly £2 per litre. Volunteer recruitment is down significantly and we’re struggle to get younger drivers. Some existing older drivers are reducing their volunteer hours or stepping down.”

Anne Hay, [Dundee Community Cars](#) (Dundee East / Dundee West)

“This is something that has been brought up by our drivers recently... As prices rise I’m sure this could be an issue in the future. 2012 seems a long time ago and I think this should be reviewed.”

Peter Fenton, [South West Ross Community Car Scheme](#) (Ross, Skye and Lochaber)

“As petrol prices increase, covering volunteers' expenses becomes more of an issue for the car scheme and for the individual volunteers driving people to hospital appointments and other journeys... We currently pay 45p per mile (without passenger) and 50p (per mile with passenger).”

OUR COALITION

The campaign is led by the [Community Transport Association](#) (CTA) and supported by our partners at the [National Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) (NCVO), [Volunteering Matters](#), the [Royal Voluntary Service](#), [Communities 1st](#), [Volunteer Now](#), the [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) (SCVO), [Volunteer Scotland](#), the [Wales Council for Voluntary Action](#) (WCVA) and the [Scottish Volunteering Forum](#).

Together, we represent more than 20 million volunteers in communities across the UK, including 1.7 million volunteers who are directly involved in transport-related volunteering, calling for action by HM Treasury.

