

22 May 2026

**Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ**

RE: Approved Mileage Allowance Payment – A Fair Deal for Volunteers

Dear Chancellor of the Exchequer,

We are writing to you on behalf of more than 1.7 million people involved in transport-related volunteering across the UK after your announcement yesterday (Thursday 21 May) of an uplift to the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP).

We welcome your announcement to the House of Commons that the Government's 'workers-first review' will deliver 'a 10p per mile increase in tax free mileage rates, backdated to April 2026'. We agree that this measure will help 'those who need to drive for work, from care workers to plumbers'.

However, as leading voluntary sector organisations, we know that the AMAP rate is also a crucial tool widely used by charities and community groups to reimburse volunteers who use their own vehicles in the course of their duties. It enables essential transport services which, for example, help disabled people to attend NHS appointments, support older people to access day care centres and enable young people to participate in sport.

Volunteers all over the UK tell us that the outdated 2011 AMAP rate of 45p per mile for (plus 5p per mile per passenger) for cars is leaving them out of pocket, because it does not cover the full costs of motoring in 2026. Many can no longer afford to volunteer as much as they used to or even at all.

It is critical that the new AMAP rate of 55p per mile applies equally to volunteers as to employees in order to protect volunteering and save essential transport services which prevent missed appointments, improve public health and strengthen our communities in challenging times.

Therefore, we would welcome urgent confirmation that the new AMAP rates apply in full to volunteers as to employees without exception. This reassurance would help us as a voluntary sector to provide the clear and tailored communication sought by our members and their volunteers.

We would also urge you to provide, at the earliest opportunity or in the Autumn Budget, the financial resources required for its implementation. Central, devolved and local government should deliver uplifts to grants and contracts to cover the additional unplanned costs of the new AMAP rate. Voluntary organisations' bids for grants and contracts for 2026/27 have been based on the previous rate of 45p per mile at a time when their budgets are already increasingly squeezed by inflation and rising demand.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Victoria Armstrong, Chief Executive, Community Transport Association (CTA)

Dr Lindsay Cordery-Bruce, Chief Executive, Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)

Stephen Craker, Chief Executive, Communities 1st

Maddy Desforges OBE, CEO, National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA)

Denise Hayward, Chief Executive Officer, Volunteer Now

The Revd Canon Nick Ralph, Council for Social Responsibility (CSR) and Good Neighbours Network (GNN)

Jennifer Reston, Chair, Scottish Volunteering Forum

Alan Stevenson, Chief Executive, Volunteer Scotland

Dave Stott, Director of Volunteering and Safeguarding, Royal Voluntary Service (RVS)

Emma Thomas-Hancock, Chief Operating Officer, Volunteering Matters