

# Age Action Alliance Mobility Vehicle Survey

## On Behalf of the Department for Transport

The number of Mobility Vehicles in use in the UK has risen dramatically in the last few years. It is estimated that around 320,000 people have access to these vehicles, and annual sales are rising significantly. This has been a positive thing in that it has enabled people who have found it difficult walking to remain active in their communities.

Unfortunately, these vehicles have become of increasing concern as a result of sometimes very serious accidents, and misuse by a minority.

In 2010 the Department for Transport undertook a public consultation on proposed changes to the laws governing mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. As a result of the consultation, the Minister, Norman Baker, provided a Written Statement which set out that the Department would:

- “review the unladen weight limit for powered wheelchairs”
- “consider the case for mandatory eyesight testing”
- “review matters relating to insurance and the use of specialist training providers”
- “work with transport operators and the industry to enable a disabled person to have more confidence that they can travel with a mobility scooter”

The Department of Transport, in considering the above, want policies to balance carefully the mobility needs of disabled people with the safety of pedestrians and road users.

Currently, it is not mandatory to have either insurance or training to use a mobility vehicle and the Department lacks reliable information on whether or not users voluntarily utilise products that are available. They similarly have limited information on how users purchase their vehicles.

The Age Action Alliance has offered to assist the Department of Transport try to obtain reliable information on these subjects through the use of its networks. The Survey is designed to be completed by users (or their relatives) and aims to collect the information required by the Department through a series of tick boxes. The survey is designed to be completed electronically, but can easily be printed and completed manually by anyone without access to a computer.

Your help would be appreciated in getting as many responses as possible so that the Alliance may present the Department of Transport with some sound data which they can take into consideration when reviewing their regulations. The Alliance Transport Working Group sees this as a positive way of promoting the reach of the Forums and the Alliance to government departments and hope that you will be able to assist us in achieving this.

