
Have your say

Public consultation to tackle low level anti-social behaviour on buses



Transport for
West Midlands

Public consultation to tackle low level anti-social behaviour on buses

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), is asking if new powers should be introduced on buses, to tackle low level, anti-social behaviour.

We also want to find out if there is any low level anti-social behaviour that stops you from travelling by bus, which we haven't thought of.

A full list of what we are asking, can be found online at: tfwm.org.uk/busbyelaws or by contacting our Customer Contact Centre using the details on the back page.

We're particularly interested in hearing people's views on:

- Vaping on the bus and at stops and around bus stations
- Ticketless travel/unauthorised buying and selling of tickets/altering tickets
- Travelling under the influence of alcohol and drugs where it affects other passengers
- Playing music, sound and advertising
- Unauthorised access/loitering at stations/premises
- General safety

Buses connect thousands of people to education, training and employment opportunities and account for over 800,000 journeys in the West Midlands every day. One of our top priorities is making travelling by bus a more attractive and pleasant option for everyone who uses them.

Since 2006, crime and anti-social behaviour on public transport in the West Midlands has dramatically reduced by over 60%, thanks to our Safer Travel policing teams. However, a national survey by watchdog Transport Focus revealed passengers' perception of crime remains high and the reason for this is low level, nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

The new byelaws would cover behaviour which isn't necessarily illegal or against the law, but can make people feel unsafe or uncomfortable. This includes things like: loitering, vaping on the bus, being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, playing loud music and using threatening or offensive language.

Introducing new byelaws would give Safer Travel, the British Transport Police and West Midlands Police, greater powers for stopping these behaviours and if introduced, the byelaws would apply to buses, bus stops and bus stations.

Tram and train byelaws

Similar byelaws already exist on trams and trains in the West Midlands so introducing them on buses would be a natural progression and supports our zero tolerance stance to anti-social behaviour on public transport. If they are introduced, it would be the first time they are used in the UK.

Bus byelaws – a simple guide

A summary of what each byelaw covers and how they could be broken is detailed below. If you would like to see a full copy of the proposed bus byelaws, you can request them by contacting our customer contact centre on 0345 303 6760 option 5

In the description below, an ‘authorised person’ would currently be a member of the Safer Travel police team, West Midlands Police Officer or a Police Community Support Officer.

Smoking and vaping

If you smoke or vape in bus stations, at stops or on-board buses, where notices tell you not to, the byelaw would be broken.

Ticketless travel and misuse of tickets

If you travel without a ticket, or with a ticket which isn’t valid, or your ticket has been knowingly changed in some way, the byelaw would be broken. This includes using an out-of-date ticket, a ticket for a different bus service or reselling or tampering with a ticket.

Alcohol, drugs and unfit to travel

Anyone who causes a nuisance or distresses other passengers due to being drunk, under the influence of drugs or in a physical condition deemed unfit to travel (e.g soiling the bus), would be breaking the byelaw.

Music and sound

Anyone who plays loud music or creates noise which disturbs other passengers’ journeys would be breaking the byelaw.

Advertising

Anyone who displays advertising or publicity which hasn’t been agreed by the bus operator and/or Transport for West Midlands would be breaking the byelaw. This would include selling, touting or soliciting for money.

Following traffic signs, safety instructions, causing obstructions and parking

Anyone who does not observe or obey traffic signs in relation to bus stops and bus stations would be breaking the byelaw. This includes parking at a bus stop or obstructing bus stops and bus stations.

Unauthorised access or loitering

Anyone who enters an area where they are advised not to would be breaking the byelaw.

Anyone who misuses facilities including escalators, ticket barriers or lifts, would be breaking the byelaw. Anyone who loiters on premises or vehicles, or disobeys an authorised person if they are asked to leave, would also be breaking the byelaw.

Unacceptable behaviour

Anyone who uses offensive or obscene language, or acts in a way which is threatening, intimidating or unpleasant to other people would be breaking the byelaw. This includes spitting, leaving litter and damaging the bus station, bus stop or bus.

Pedestrian only areas

Anyone who enters a bus station must do so on foot unless told or permitted to do otherwise. Not to do this would be breaking the byelaw

Control of animals

You may be refused to travel by bus, or enter a bus station or stop if you have an animal which may annoy, soil or damage any person or the bus stop, bus station or vehicle. If you are allowed to bring an animal on board and it soils or damages the bus, bus stop or bus station the byelaw would be broken.

General safety

Any behaviour which is likely to cause someone an injury or put a person’s life at risk, damage any property or inconvenience other passengers, would be breaking the byelaw. This includes misusing or releasing automatic doors and not following instructions given by an authorised person.

How to get involved:

The consultation will be open for comments between 4 February and 29 March 2019.

You can find out more information and share your views in the following ways:

At an event

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 7 February	3-6pm	Wolverhampton Bus Station, Pipers Row, Wolverhampton, WV1 3LB
Wednesday 13 February	3-6pm	Pool Meadow Bus Station, Fairfax Street, Coventry, CV1 5AD
Monday 18 February	3-6pm	Dudley Bus Station, Fisher Street, Dudley, DY2 7AB
Wednesday 27 February	3-6pm	Walsall Bus Station, St Paul Street, Walsall, WS1 1NR
Saturday 9 March	10am-2pm	Birmingham High Street (near Marks & Spencer)
Wednesday 13 March	3-6pm	West Bromwich Bus Station, St Michaels Street, The Ringway, West Bromwich, B70 7N
Monday 18 March	3-6pm	Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre, 33 Maple Walk, Birmingham B37 5TS

Online

Read the proposals in full and fill in a questionnaire online at: tfwm.org.uk/busbyelaws

Printed and different formats

You can request a questionnaire, a copy of the full proposed byelaws or request this leaflet in a different format via:

Post

Customer Services, 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham, B19 3SD

Telephone

0345 303 6760 option 5

Email

customerservices@tfwm.org.uk

Tweet

@transportforWM



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