



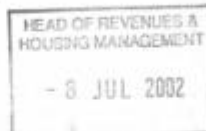
**Rochford & Rayleigh  
Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd**

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Our Ref: AH HH DL

4 July 2002

Mr. P. Skelton  
Transportation & Revenue Admin. Manager  
Rochford District Council  
Council Offices  
7 South Street  
Rochford  
Essex  
SS4 1BW



Dear Mr. Skelton

**Taxi Voucher Scheme**

Since the launch of the taxi voucher scheme in April 2002 our Bureau has seen a number of clients who despite having mobility needs do not meet the criteria for higher rate attendance allowance.

The disability test that must be met to qualify for higher rate attendance allowance is someone who is so severely disabled physically or mentally that they require from another person :-

**during the day**

- frequent attention throughout the day in connection with their bodily functions*
- or
- continual supervision throughout the day to avoid substantial danger to themselves or others*

**during the night**

- they require from another person prolonged or repeated attention in connection with their bodily functions*
- or
- in order to avoid substantial danger to themselves or others they require another person to be awake for a prolonged period or at frequent intervals for the purpose of watching over them*

Also at: Back Lane, Rochford, Essex SS4 1AY Tel: 01702 545552  
Company No. 4005020 Registered Charity No. 1082949



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Rochford District Council  
4 July 2002

The husband of one of our clients has extreme breathing difficulties and cannot walk for more than a few yards without severe pain. Our client is her husband's main carer and although she has to help with his care needs throughout the day - washing, dressing, toileting - she does not have to get up regularly in the night as her husband uses a bottle during the night and only rarely requires assistance.

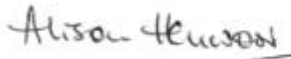
The Dial-a-Ride scheme made a vast difference to our client's situation - allowing her husband to leave the home - which gave them both a much needed break. Since the introduction of the taxi voucher scheme our client no longer qualifies for this help and is feeling increasingly isolated.

I am pleased to report that the introduction of the scheme has inadvertently helped some of our clients who have applied for, and been successful in getting, higher rate Attendance Allowance directly as a result of the criteria for the taxi voucher scheme. However, we are very concerned for our clients who now seem unable to qualify for this much needed help with mobility.

Also, anecdotal evidence from other organisations, i.e. Crossroad and Dial, would lead us to believe that their clients are experiencing similar difficulties.

We understand that due to budget restraints there needs to be a set criteria for such schemes but after this initial period of operation we would ask you to revisit your criteria to include those who have mobility needs but not necessarily the care needs required for the higher rate Attendance Allowance.

Yours sincerely



Alison Henwood  
District Manager