

Disabled people to benefit from better journeys thanks to service station funding

- government awards 22 motorway service areas funding for Changing Places toilets
- second round of funding, extended to include A roads, launched by the Department for Transport
- next in series of improvements by the Secretary of State for Transport to create a more accessible transport network, helping disabled people travel safely and with confidence

Journeys will be easier and more comfortable for disabled people with more than a third of motorway service stations set to have Changing Places toilets.

The Department for Transport, in partnership with Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK), has today announced the 22 motorway service areas that have been successful in their bid for a share of government funding for [Changing Places toilets](#).

A second round of funding is now being launched, this time extended to include A roads, with operators of service stations on these routes, as well as on motorways, invited to bid.

A quarter of a million people cannot use standard accessible toilets and need access to Changing Places facilities, which have more space and equipment. This includes adult-sized changing benches and hoists, allowing people with conditions like muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy to use the bathroom safely and comfortably.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

In a modern country, everyone should be able to travel.

Despite improvements in some areas, we need our roadside services to be better for the quarter of a million people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

This is why we would like to go even further by extending this to the trunk road network. I encourage as many operators as possible to apply for funding, to open up our road network to everyone who wants to use it.

Accessibility Minister Nusrat Ghani said:

I am delighted to be awarding nearly £750,000 to bring Changing Places toilets to 22 more service stations, helping ensure that everyone can use our roads easily and comfortably.

This is one of the commitments set out in our Inclusive Transport Strategy, an ambitious piece of work to complement the UN's sustainable development goals – helping make the world more inclusive for disabled people.

However, we know there is more to do which is why we are working hard on ensuring our wider transport network – not just roads, but railways, buses, aeroplanes and ferries too – is open to all.

The DfT's £2 million partnership with MDUK was announced last November to bring Changing Places toilets to more motorway service areas.

The fund was launched in April and motorway service area operators submitted their proposals for 50% funding support for specific new Changing Places toilet installations, which are expected to be ready by the early 2020s.

MDUK worked with the DfT to allocate funding which will support each individual operator's building work and equipment to add Changing Places toilets alongside other accessible facilities within their service stations. Catherine Woodhead, Chief Executive of Muscular Dystrophy UK, which co-chairs the Changing Places Consortium, said:

Too many disabled people and their families are excluded from doing things that others take for granted because there are not enough Changing Places. We're delighted that, thanks to the DfT's funding, 22 service stations will be installing these facilities.

This will make it easier for a quarter of a million people to go on holiday, enjoy a day out with friends, or simply visit the shops.

We won't stop campaigning until every service station in the country has a Changing Places toilet, and we would encourage businesses who haven't done so already to apply for funding in the next round of applications.

The investment is part of the government's [Inclusive Transport Strategy](#) which aims to provide equal access to the transport network by 2030, with assistance if physical infrastructure remains a barrier.

Published in 2018, it set out key commitments to improve disabled people's access across all modes of transport by 2030. Achievements so far include:

- a commitment to extend the [Access for All](#) programme with an additional £300 million, delivering improvements at a further 73 stations between 2019 and 2024
- the introduction of the first impartial and independent [Rail Ombudsman](#),

making sure passengers are heard and that they get a fair deal when train companies fall short

- the extension of the [Blue Badge](#) eligibility criteria to include people with non-visible disabilities

The government announced in May proposals for new, or majorly refurbished, large buildings used by the public to have Changing Places toilets for severely disabled people. This could add the toilets to more than 150 new buildings a year, including shopping centres, supermarkets, cinemas, stadiums and arts venues. This builds upon the government's announcement last December of £2 million funding to kickstart installation of [Changing Places facilities in NHS hospitals](#).

The [Changing Places application portal](#) will be open until December.

The 22 successful motorway service area operators are:

Motorway service station	Motorway	County
Moto rugby	M6	Warwickshire
Knutsford Services NB	M6	Cheshire
Ferrybridge Services	M62	West Yorkshire
Reading EB	M4	Berkshire
Heston WB	M4	Greater London
Hilton Park SB	M6	Staffordshire
Strensham North	M5	Worcestershire
Tibshelf South	M1	Derbyshire
Tibshelf North	M1	Derbyshire
Taunton Deane North	M5	Somerset
Strensham South	M5	Worcestershire
Sedgemoor	M5	Somerset
Rownhams South	M27	Hampshire
Northampton South	M1	Northamptonshire
Northampton North	M1	Northamptonshire
Maidstone	M20	Kent
Durham	A1(M)	County Durham
Clacket Lane West	M25	Surrey
Chester MSA	M56	Cheshire
Gloucester NB	M5	Gloucestershire
Tebay SB	M6	Cumbria
Birchanger	M11	Essex

The second round funded areas are:

Motorway service station	Motorway	County
Birch EB	M62	Lancashire
Birch WB	M62	Lancashire
Blyth	A1(M)	Nottinghamshire

Motorway service station	Motorway	County
Burton	M6	Lancashire
Chieveley	M4	Berkshire
Doncaster NB	M18	South Yorkshire
Frankley NB	M5	Worcestershire
Frankley SB	M5	Worcestershire
Grantham NB	A1	Lincolnshire
Heston EB	M4	Middlesex
Hilton Park NB	M6	Staffordshire
Knutsford SB	M6	Cheshire
Lancaster NB	M6	Lancashire
Lancaster SB	M6	Lancashire
Leeming Bar	A1(M)	North Yorkshire
Leigh Delamere	M4	Wiltshire
Lymm	M6	Cheshire
Pease Pottage	M23	West Sussex
Reading WB	M4	Berkshire
Rownhams NB (RC)	M27	Hampshire
Southwaite SB	M6	Cumbria
Severn View	M48	Bristol
Stafford NB	M6	Staffordshire
Stafford SB (RC)	M6	Staffordshire
Tamworth	M42	Staffordshire
Taunton SB (RC)	M5	Somerset
Tiverton	M5	Devon
Toddington SB	M1	Bedfordshire
Todhills NB	M6	Cumbria
Todhills SB	M6	Cumbria
Washington SB	A1(M)	Tyne and Wear
Washington NB	A1(M)	Tyne and Wear
Wetherby	A1(M)	North Yorkshire
Winchester SB	M3	Hampshire
Winchester NB	M3	Hampshire
Woolley Edge SB	M1	West Yorkshire
Woolley Edge NB	M1	West Yorkshire