

Save the 204 bus!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Jeanetta Black for her letter in Thursday's "Evening Telegraph" regarding the council's axing of the 204 bus :

Rethink cancelled bus route

I WISH to thank the Evening Telegraph, reporter Jon Brady and also Councillor Fraser Macpherson for helping us to state our case in trying to save the 204 bus service route.

It is indeed a lifeline for us to be able to attend appointments at Ninewells or Royal Victoria Hospital.

First and foremost is the need to be able to maintain independence. Without the bus we cannot get up the braes.

We will become virtual prisoners in our own homes.

The Blether Bus does not allow access to disabled people.

If an elderly person needs accompanied to appointments, the person accompanying would need to be over 60 to use the bus.

I urge the councillors to think again.

One day you too will be in our position.

JEANETTA BLACK.

The campaign to save the 204 is far from being over and, like Jeanetta, I share the concern that the so-called Blether Bus "alternative" service the

council is suggesting is simply not fit for purpose. The "service" utilises council mini-buses that many older folk and people with mobility difficulties will not be able to access.

I have now queried the legal position with Dundee City Council's Head of Democratic and Legal Services. Local authorities had a responsibility in Part 5 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 that required all land-based transport vehicles to be accessible to disabled people including those who need to remain in wheelchairs. These responsibilities transferred to the 2010 Equality Act and there is now also a public sector equality duty in Scotland.

Meantime, the petition to save the 204 bus has gathered momentum with over 260 local residents signing it. It can be signed at www.tinyurl.com/savethe204.