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Dementia drivers 'as dangerous as gunmen'

Tighter licence checks needed to avoid sufferers taking to the roads when they have become a danger to the public, doctors will be told



Dr Holden called for the DVLA system by which GPs can record patients' conditions to be updated to accommodate dementia symptoms Photo: Getty Images

In addition to the cognitive, emotional and sensory challenges faced by people with dementia when travelling, there are a number of additional barriers.

These include:

- Difficulties with journey planning
- The use of fast changing technology which can exclude certain groups of people
- A lack of service integration
- Staff with limited awareness of the needs of people with dementia
- Poor, inconsistent or confusing signage – or unclear rules regarding reserved seats/spaces



1. Journey planning

Over half of disabled passengers who had a problem when planning a journey reported a lack of confidence.



2. Passenger Assist

Awareness of Passenger Assist was low, but users find it generally works well. Of those who experienced a problem, two in five reported a lack of “Turn Up and Go” services; a further two in five said assistance services weren’t available.

- Difficulties with journey planning





3. Network accessibility

Parking and car access were common problems when accessing stations. Problems with public transport or the cost of taxis were also common problems at this stage.

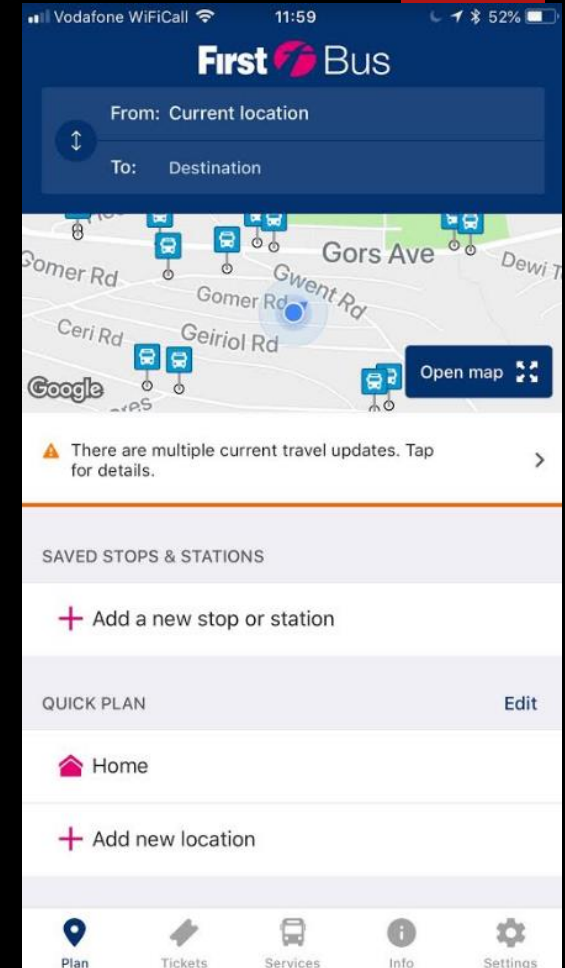
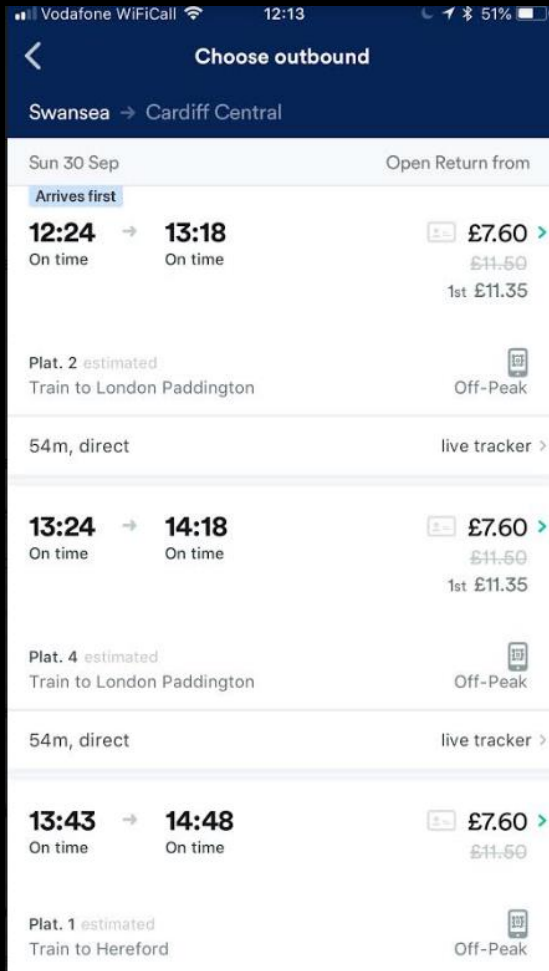
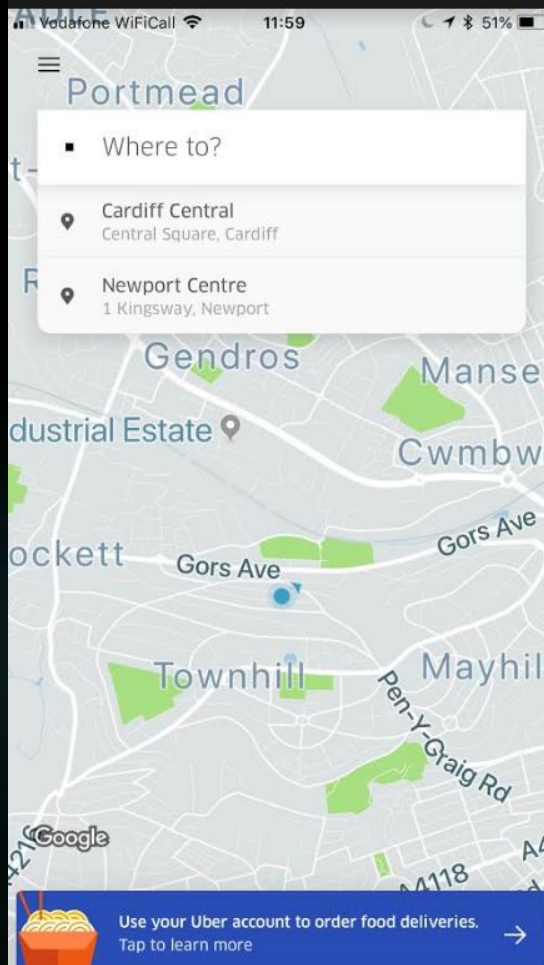


4. Ticketing

Almost two in five who experienced a barrier at this stage reported ticket offices not being open. Using ticket vending machines was the most commonly anticipated problem at this stage.



A cartoon depicting Derek's experiences. Credit: Tony Husband





5. Stations

Multiple challenges were anticipated at the station, but experiencing problems was lower than expected. Almost a third who experienced a problem cited a lack of good, or any, toilets.



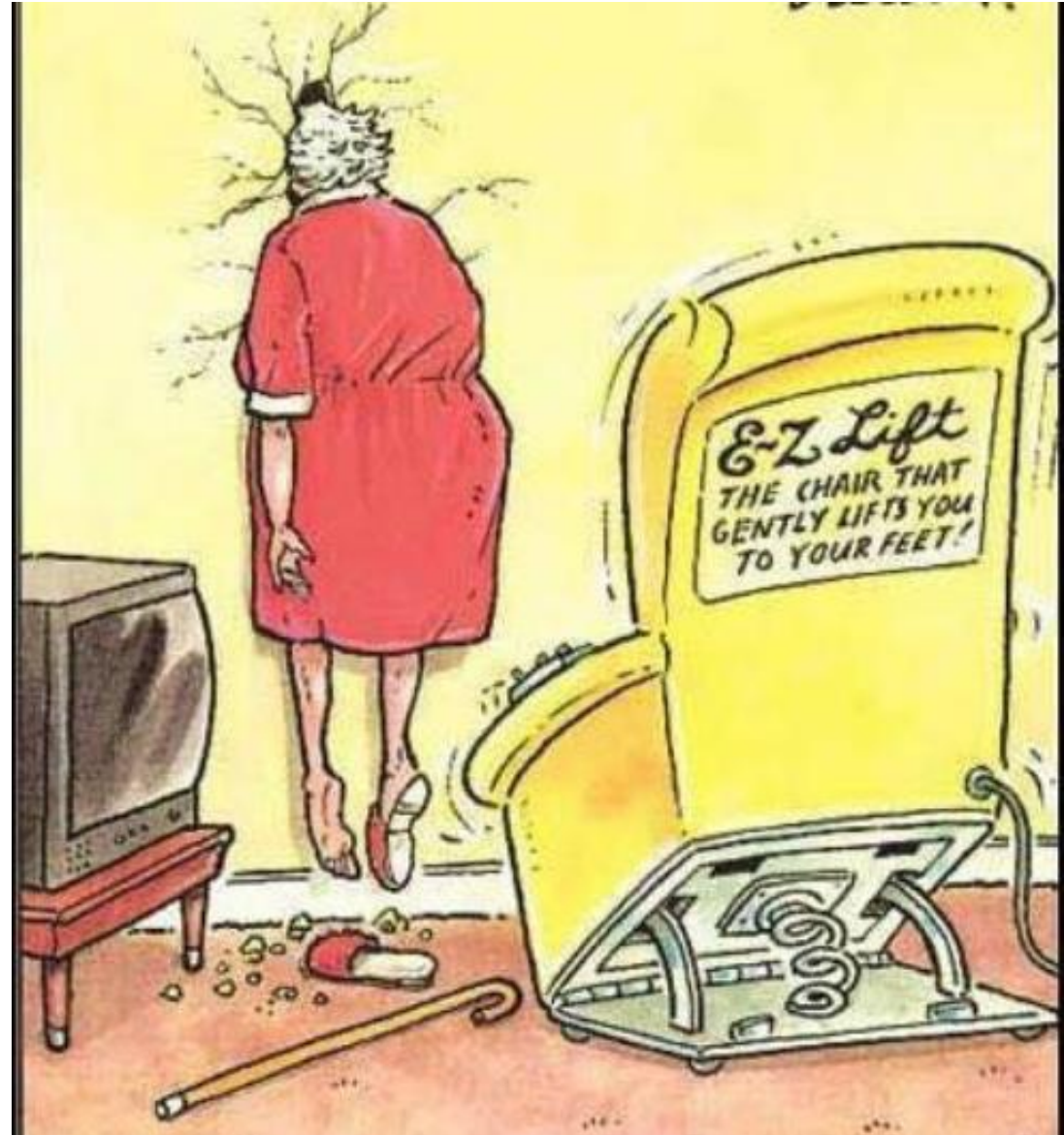
6. On-board

Almost three in ten passengers who experienced a problem on-board each cited a lack of toilets or the attitudes of others. Anxiety, and a perceived “hierarchy” around priority seating were also challenges.



7. Onward travel

At the onward travel journey stage, finding exits and onward travel at the destination station were the most commonly reported challenges.









GIVE US THE RIGHT TO A GRAND DAY OUT

Give us the right to a grand day out, Give us a seat
on a nice clean train;

Give us a view of the shining sea As the sun breaks
through the British rain.

Give us a trip we can all go on Give us a day that'll
make us grin;

Give us a toilet close to hand Not a mile down the
train by a smelly bin.

Give us some signs that are crystal clear Give us a
guard who knows their stuff

Give us a trip we can file away When the world
seems harsh and life gets rough.

Yes, give us the right to a grand day out, Give us a
seat on a nice clean train; Give us a view of the
shining sea As the sun breaks through the British rain.