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Submission: I do not believe that increasing the cost of pensioner Gold Cards is appropriate because it will have the effect of increasing the road usage and diminishing the public transport usage, which is detrimental to the overall transport situation. Furthermore, pensioners often have little choice as to the times at which they have to use that transport system because the time is set by others, doctors, physiotherapists, social workers, schools etc.

Pensioners and other low income citizens have little ability to cover increasing costs, because of the nature of the pension payment, so increasing Opal costs put them at further disadvantage. In the statements on line, it is often stated that the costs would decrease but this does not seem to be borne out by the figures provided.