Department for Transport

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13 September 2024

David Rogers and Ian Daniels
By email: info@transitiontavistock.org.uk

Dear David Rogers and Ian Daniels,

Thank you for your letter of 5 August, addressed to the Secretary of State for Transport, regarding public transport in Tavistock, Devon. Your email has been passed to the Bus Briefing, Correspondence and Partnerships Hub and I have been asked to reply.

With regard to your point on the creation of a new combined authority, the Deputy Prime Minister set out their position in a letter to local leaders, inviting them to partner with this government to deliver the most ambitious programme of devolution this country has ever seen. Officials at the Department for Transport are working with colleagues at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the implementation of this programme, including the publication of a new devolution framework, setting out the new powers and flexibilities that will be made available to authorities.

Turning to your point on the £2 bus fare cap, making fares more affordable is one of the government's top priorities as it knows how important this is for passengers. The £2 fare cap is due to continue until 31 December 2024. The Secretary of State for Transport is looking at the future of the £2 fare cap as a matter of urgency and is considering the most appropriate and affordable approach for the future of the scheme.

I appreciate the points you raise in support of the Tavistock to Plymouth line, which was being considered as part of the Restoring Your Railway programme. The project is now being considered as part of the Department's wider review of transport infrastructure investment, alongside other transport projects. However, due to budget constraints, it will not be possible to deliver all projects under review.

Looking ahead, the government believes that local authorities are best placed to prioritise and take forward transport projects which are most appropriate for the areas they serve, particularly where they will support economic growth, job creation, more and better housing, and ultimately demonstrate a good

business case. This could include the Tavistock to Plymouth project, but it will ultimately be a matter for local leaders to take forward.

Thank you for writing to the Department on these important issues. I hope this response reassures you that delivering better public transport is a priority for the government. The Department is committed to working at pace with local transport authorities, operators and passengers to deliver the government's priorities and ensure that vital public transport services truly reflect the needs of the local communities that rely on them.

Yours sincerely,

Bus Briefing, Correspondence and Partnerships Hub