

Rt Hon Baroness Vere  
Minister of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
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London  
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Email: baroness.vere\_puss@dft.gov.uk

Dear Baroness Vere,

**RE: Bus Recovery Grant**

I am writing to offer my thanks and appreciation for the extension to the Bus Recovery Grant (BRG) for a further six-month period as set out in your letter of 19 August. Without this crucial financial support, a significant number of Cambridgeshire's and Peterborough's residents would have limited or no public transport to enable them to access key destinations to maintain and improve their quality of life.

The Combined Authority remain committed to providing bus services that are dependable, accessible, safe, and comfortable, whilst offering value for money to passengers and to the public purse. Moreover, we want these services to continue to be a lifeline for our communities through the provision of a high-quality, integrated, and simple-to-use transport network.

Your letter of 19th August 2022 stated that £130m will be provided under the extension, which will be available from October and will be in effect until March 2023. Confirmation on the allocations of funding and how the funding will be applied to commercial operators and Local Transport Authorities would be much appreciated as soon as possible. We would urge that funding is routed through the Transport Authorities in order to secure the outcomes our residents want.

I understand from discussions this week that questions remain around whether the extension will be provided in two, three-month funding allocations or one for a six-month period and who the money will be passed to. Clarification on this is important to ensure that the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough continue to have the services they require to meet their needs and expectations. Needless to say that if we are to address our acute issues of rural isolation, economic exclusion and access to critical services we must secure BRG funding support for the next 6 months.

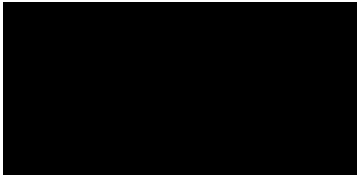
We are very concerned that our main regional operator, Stagecoach, is proposing to accept the BRG and cut critical services, the very services that will impact our vulnerable

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communities the most. I would be grateful if the Government can confirm that a key condition of accepting BRG is that operators must retain current service levels.

We are continuing to make progress with our Bus Strategy work, BSIP refresh for submission this Autumn, and our franchising business case.

Yours sincerely



Mayor Dr Nik Johnson  
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority



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