



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Louise Haigh MP  
63 Chesterfield Road  
Sheffield  
South Yorkshire  
S8 0RL

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
London

Tele: 0114 250 8113  
Email: [louise@louisehaigh.org.uk](mailto:louise@louisehaigh.org.uk)

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Dear Secretary of State,

In April 2020 you pledged to make public transport the “natural first choice” saying the scale of the challenge to reach net-zero demanded a ‘step-change in both the breadth and scale of ambition’.

Little over a year later you pledged to ‘bus back better’ with £3bn of transformational funding to make ‘great bus services available to everyone, everywhere’. Yet today, one-third of bus services and around 300 million passengers journeys are at imminent risk of being slashed.

These cuts would be devastating for the millions of passengers who depend on buses, and would represent a straightforward betrayal of the promises you made to voters.

As you know due to the six-week notice period on bus route closures, this Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February will be the last moment before a wave of bus service cuts are announced as a result of Covid Bus Recovery funding expiring on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Communities urgently need certainty in the short and long-term. That is why I am urging you to:

- **Act on the immediate crisis**, by giving local communities clarity on the status of emergency funding due to expire on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Come clean on the cuts to the wider long-term funding for the Bus Back Better strategy**, which has left the Prime Minister’s pledge to “transform” bus services in tatters, and could see many communities miss out altogether.

A letter sent to Local Transport Authority directors by the Department for Transport on 11 January has already made clear that the budget for the “transformation” of buses has now been slashed to £1.2bn.

And the Conservative Mayor of the West Midlands has said the “funding specifically pledged for transformation has been substantially reduced”, concluding he is “gravely concerned” that far from seeing transformation, many areas face losing their services altogether.

It is time to come clean on the cuts to transformation funding and tackle the looming bus crisis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Haigh', written in a cursive style.

Louise Haigh MP