



Department  
for Transport

**Baroness Vere of Norbiton**  
Transport Minister for Roads, Buses and  
Places

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [baroness.vere@dft.gov.uk](mailto:baroness.vere@dft.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

Councillor David Renard  
Local Government Association  
18 Smith Square  
Westminster  
London SW1P 3HZ

2 March 2022

Dear David,

## **BUS AND LIGHT RAIL COVID-19 FUNDING FROM APRIL 2022**

Thank you for your support over the past two years in ensuring that vital bus and light rail services have been able to continue to serve the needs of passengers and local communities during the pandemic. The government understands the importance of local transport networks to local areas and has provided around £2bn of support to date, through emergency and recovery grants, to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. However, following discussions with transport operators and local authorities responsible for bus and light rail systems, I am aware of the difficulties no further funding would have presented, including de-registration of services.

Therefore, following negotiations, I am delighted to announce that I am making available over £150m to local transport providers to continue supporting the sector as we build back better following the Covid-19 pandemic. The funding will support bus operators and local authorities responsible for bus and light rail services from April until October. This is alongside the £29m uplift to the Bus Recovery Grant announced earlier this year.

We all know that demand for local transport has changed following the pandemic, with significant structural changes to travel patterns and a 'new normal' slowly emerging. The government's view is that local transport authorities and operators must continue to adapt to this change in a positive manner. As such one of the conditions of this new funding will be that both LTAs and operators work closely together to ensure that effective and

financially sustainable networks which cater for the needs of the local public are implemented once recovery funding ends. These will ensure a managed transition and that effective networks are provided to passengers, whilst the sector reaches a position where it no longer requires ongoing Covid-19 recovery funding.

Further information will be provided shortly regarding the nature and form of this condition, including any requirements for submission of information to DfT and timelines for this. This work will take into account the ongoing work around Enhanced Partnerships or Franchising that LTAs and operators are currently engaged in. Officials will also work with you to ensure you are aware of all conditions attached to the funding.

Local transport, at its core, is a public service, delivering benefits to the people and economies of the regions they serve. I would like to thank you all for working with the Department and for your ongoing support throughout the pandemic to ensure local public transport services were available to all those who needed them. My officials and I will continue to work closely with you and the sector to support the transition from recovery funding to becoming self-sustainable.

Yours,  
Charlotte

**BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON**