



**Chris Hinchliff**

Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 7569

Rt Hon Heidi Alexander MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State,

We, the undersigned, announce our strong support for the amendments tabled by Chris Hinchliff MP, which address all the priority issues for passengers and put strong public interest duties at the centre of the Railways Bill.

The amendments would solve all the most urgent problems in public transport today, including the price of fares, the poor state of accessibility for disabled people, the urgency of modal shift from road transport and the need to ensure the long-term socioeconomic value of the railway.

- A strong passenger rights and disability rights duty at the centre of Great British Railways and as the main duty of the Passenger Watchdog. This must be based on modern, rights-based language, ensuring that passenger rights have a higher status in the Bill than competition and cost-efficiency duties.
- A core set of public interest duties for socioeconomic benefits, accessibility and environment; including the requirement for a target-based approach towards the full accessibility of rail infrastructure.
- Duties to secure affordable fares and improve transport integration; two of the most important factors for transport equality as well as passenger demand and revenue growth.
- Proper regulation of passenger rights and accessibility, including the strengthening of the Office of Rail and Road's standards of rights enforcement and an improved version of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The amendments offer enormous economic benefits, including stronger protections for the value of public money and the necessary powers to create integrated investment funds. They also ensure proper rights-based regulation, meeting the longstanding demands of the Transport Committee on rail accessibility and transport discrimination.<sup>1</sup> Finally, the public support for these amendments is overwhelming, with over 90% of the consultation responses including a strong set of public interest duties as their lead demand.

We ask that you keep these matters at the top of your agenda and use this once-in-a-generation opportunity to put a strong passenger rights framework at the centre of the Railways Bill.

We would be grateful for a meeting to discuss these amendments further.

Yours sincerely,  
Chris Hinchliff MP

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<sup>1</sup> Transport Committee, 'Access Denied' report (March 2025)  
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5901/cmselect/cmtrans/770/report.html>

Emily Sullivan, Co-founder of the Association of British Commuters

Paula Peters, on behalf of the Disabled People Against Cuts steering group

Jan Shortt, General Secretary of the National Pensioners Convention

Emma Vogelmann, Co-CEO of Transport for All

Karl Farrell, President of the National Federation of the Blind of the UK

Anthony Jennings, Co-founder of Campaign for Level Boarding

Jon Abrams, Campaigns and Justice Co-ordinator at Inclusion London

Chris Todd, Founder of Transport Action Network

Ellie Harrison, Founder of Bring Back British Rail

Susie Wood, Secretary of Get Glasgow Moving

Julian Vaughan, Chair of Bedfordshire Rail Access Network

Ann Bates OBE, former government advisor on transport

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, House of Lords

Doug Paulley, disability rights activist and researcher

Christiane Link, accessibility expert and consultant

Sarah Leadbetter, disability rights activist

Sarah Gayton, disability rights campaigner

Gareth Dennis, rail engineer and writer