



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Paul Maynard MP

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Lilian Greenwood MP
Chair
Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
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28 July 2017

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to inform you about new rail investment that we are supporting to improve journeys for passengers and support the economy in West Wales, County Durham, and the Warrington, Bristol and Reading areas.

Passenger numbers have more than doubled since privatisation of the railways 20 years ago and our country's railways need to adapt to cope with this and future demands. This includes investing in new stations, new services and upgrades across the country.

As you may be aware, we announced £20m for a second round of the New Stations Fund in 2016, following the success of the first £20m round, which has already delivered passenger benefits in South Wales, the East Midlands, the South West and South East through new stations. A further station will be delivered in Warwickshire early next year.

We have funded this competition to improve journeys for passengers, and create new leisure, training, employment and business opportunities, by supporting the delivery of new and fully accessible stations. We received 19 bids for support from the New Stations Fund and, after a robust selection process, we have approved the following five new stations:

- Bow Street, promoted by the Welsh Government
- Horden Peterlee, promoted by Durham County Council
- Warrington West, promoted by Warrington Borough Council
- Reading Green Park, promoted by Reading Borough Council
- Portway Parkway, promoted by Bristol City Council

We are investing over £16m in these stations, representing over 30 percent of the total costs of delivering them. The remainder is provided by third parties. All of the stations will be benefitting passengers and opening up access to new rail journeys from March 2020 at the latest.

Our priority is to deliver improved journeys for rail passengers across the country, and we look forward to these stations opening over the next few years.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Maynard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

PAUL MAYNARD