



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
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Lilian Greenwood MP
Chair, Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
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- 8 JUL 2019

Dear Lilian,

The Inclusive Transport Strategy – Summary of Progress

Last summer, I launched the Government's 'Inclusive Transport Strategy: Achieving Equal Access for Disabled People'. The Strategy set out the Government's key policy and investment priorities for improving disabled people's access to all modes of transport. It also confirmed our timeframes and proposals for monitoring delivery.

Almost twelve months on, I am pleased to say that we have already reached some significant milestones and continue to make steady progress in delivering the Strategy's commitments. Achievements include:

- A commitment to extend the Access for All programme with an additional £300 million, delivering improvements at a further 73 stations between 2019 and 2024;
- An invitation to motorway service stations to apply for a share of £2 million funding for fully accessible Changing Places facilities, supporting disabled people to travel easily and comfortably on the road network;
- The introduction of the first ever impartial and independent Rail Ombudsman, making sure passengers are heard and that they get a fair deal when train companies fall short;
- The extension of the Blue Badge eligibility criteria to include people with non-visible disabilities (mental, cognitive, learning, psychological, and neurological); and
- The publication of the 'Inclusive Transport Strategy: Monitoring and Evaluation framework'.

A summary of the progress we have made delivering the commitments in this first year of the Strategy is enclosed.

This milestone comes at a time of increased recognition within government of the challenges faced by disabled people. The Department for Transport is proud to be a part of the Prime Minister's new drive to tackle the barriers disabled people face by delivering a range of measures, supported by a new cross-government disability team.

Looking forward, later this year we shall see the launch of a public awareness campaign to increase disability awareness amongst passengers and raise awareness of the rights of disabled people using transport. We will also launch the Inclusive Transport Leaders Scheme, which will enable the best performing transport providers to be formally recognised for their work to improve disabled passengers' experience of travelling.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support towards our shared vision of achieving a more accessible, affordable and reliable transport system for all.

Yours sincerely,



NUSRAT GHANI