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for Transport

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Dear Jenny,

I am writing in response to your request regarding the application of Minimum Service Levels (MSLs) to buses, made during the Committee stage of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill on 9 March.

The Government believes that the ability to strike is an important part of industrial relations in the UK. However, recent industrial action has demonstrated that too often strikes can disproportionately impact the hardest working people and disrupt the reliable service they deserve. The Bill establishes a clear framework for setting MSLs, recognising the importance of ensuring workers are able to take strike action, but balancing this with the needs of the public to travel to work and school, and access essential services.

The Government has identified passenger rail as the priority transport area for consultation and implementation. We are considering the other sectors to which MSLs may be applied. Therefore, the position on applying MSLs to bus services will be kept under review.

Before MSLs are introduced in any other transport services we would undertake consultation to ensure all evidence and stakeholder views are considered before decisions or regulations are made. We recognise that each transport service, including bus services, is unique, with its own complexities. Consultation will be key to ensure we get the approach to MSLs in any services right.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

This letter is being copied to Lord Callanan.

Yaws,
Charlotte

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON