

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

November 2017

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about bus fares.

I know how important affordable bus transport is to help people get about to conduct their lives. At the moment, the bus market outside London is deregulated and decisions on the level of fares is therefore primarily a decision for commercial bus operators.

In England from September 2010 to September 2015 the average real terms fare rise was 1.5 per cent per year which compares favourably to the period September 2005 to September 2010 when the average real terms fare rise was 2.1 per cent per year. The Government also provides nearly £1 billion each year to fund concessionary travel, ensuring free bus travel for the elderly and the disabled.

Ministers are, however, aware that passenger numbers in general have been falling. That is why the Government has introduced the Bus Services Act to help bus companies deliver better bus journeys for passengers and increase bus use and the attractiveness of bus services to the travelling public. The Act will give local authorities new powers to enter into stronger partnerships with bus companies, and agree minimum standards for services, hopefully improving reliability and punctuality.

The Government will also honour its devolution deal commitment to provide certain areas with bus franchising powers like those used in London.

Once again, many thanks for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY