



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

May 2018

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the free bus travel scheme.

Ensuring disabled and elderly people can continue to benefit from free off-peak bus travel is a key priority for the Government, which is why Ministers amended legislation to protect the free bus travel scheme for years to come. This means that elderly and disabled people can remain connected with their towns and cities.

Since 2007, passengers over the age of 65 or with a disability have been entitled to off peak travel on buses for free. Around 10 million people across the country are gaining from free off-peak bus travel.

I understand that legislation in this area has been amended to remove the need for it to be reviewed every five years, meaning those who make use of free bus travel have the certainty they deserve.

In addition to the substantial investment in the bus pass scheme, the Government provides around £250 million a year in England directly for bus services, which reflects very clearly the Government's commitment to bus passengers and services. 40 million of this funding ensures the bus routes which may not be commercially viable but are deemed to be socially necessary, receive funding.

Many constituents have been in contact with me regarding Northamptonshire bus services and I share these concerns. I have been in discussion with Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT). DACT is a fantastic team of volunteers who are helping to provide transport for those that need it most. I have also contacted Northamptonshire County Council detailing my constituents concerns and I hope that a positive outcome will be found in the near future.



It is important to note that the local bus service is the responsibility of the Local Authority rather than myself as your Member of Parliament. However, I will continue to follow this matter very closely.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**