

(name)

(position)

(postal/email address)

(day)(month) 2026

Dear (name),

Re: House of Commons Transport Committee's Report on Local Bus Services

I am writing in light of the House of Commons Transport Committee's recent report, which highlights the urgent need to reform how local bus services are funded and planned. While this is a challenge for all communities, older residents are among the most severely affected by cuts to public transport, especially in rural and semi-rural areas.

For many older people, the bus is their only link to essential services like healthcare, shops, and social contact. When services are withdrawn, so too is their independence. The Committee heard from a woman in her seventies in Dorset who became isolated and depressed after her local buses were cancelled. Her experience reflects a wider trend we must urgently address.

The report calls for a nationally backed minimum level of public transport connectivity, with regional flexibility in how it is delivered—whether through fixed routes or demand-responsive options. We support this goal, along with the recommendation that funding be ringfenced for socially necessary routes, so that vital services to hospitals, shops, and community hubs are protected even when they're not commercially viable.

The shift to five-year funding settlements is also essential. Short-term funding cycles undermine planning and service stability. Older residents, in particular, need consistent and dependable transport over the long term.

Finally, rural areas must be fairly funded. Current grants often favour urban services. The Committee recommends revising the Bus Service Operators Grant so that it is based on passenger journeys, not fuel usage, ensuring that rural communities aren't left out simply because they are harder to reach.

We urge your authority to support these recommendations and ensure that older residents remain connected, supported, and visible within our communities. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how this can be taken forward locally.

Yours sincerely,

(name, CSPA Group/Branch, etc)