Dear Andrew

Follow up on oral evidence session, 8 May

I am writing to follow up on several issues pursuant to your appearance in front of the Transport Committee on 8 May. Please see our questions below.

1. Will the Government implement the recommendations of the Williams Review, whatever they are? Do you have any ‘red lines’, e.g. bringing rail services into public ownership?

2. How confident are you that outstanding/carried over work from CP5 will be finished and that key improvements will be delivered by 2024?

3. Are there any limitations on the use of Direct Awards, legislative or other?
   (a) How many Direct Awards has the Department made since 2012?
   (b) For 2017/18 how many journeys on the GB rail network were made on an operator running under a Direct Award? What percentage of all journeys does this represent?

4. There are seven companies registered at Companies House under DfT OLR Holdings Ltd. What are these companies for and why are there seven of them?

5. Do any Franchise Agreements compel train companies to introduce driver controlled operation (DCO)?
   (a) If train companies fail to deliver this, for example because of industrial action, will they be penalised and if so, how?

6. There is widespread support for Northern Powerhouse Rail to help correct some of the regional disparities we have seen in transport spending. When will NPR be given the go-ahead?
   (a) Will you be pushing for NPR to be fully funded as part of the Spending Review?
7. In 2016, the Department, industry and others published the Action Plan for information on Rail Fares and Ticketing. This resulted in more than 200,000 instances of confusing language and abbreviations being removed from tickets. How many are left?

(a) How have you assessed the effectiveness of the 2016 Action Plan? What evidence do you have that customers and passengers find it easier to understand rail fares?

8. What areas of the rail industry’s ‘Easier Fares for All’ report do you find most attractive? What proposals do you think might be difficult to implement?

9. Are you happy with the pace at which train companies are rolling out smart and flexible ticketing?

(a) When can all passengers expect to be able to get flexible season tickets, that allow them more flexible working patterns and help tackle congestion at peak times?

10. What assessment has the Government made of the benefits for season ticket holders from the delay repay compensation scheme when compared with that previously offered under the passenger charter scheme?

(a) What assessment has the Government made of the net impact on passenger revenue from the introduction of delay repay where it has replaced the passenger charter scheme?

11. According to figures from the British Transport Police, between 2014 and 2018 reported sexual assaults on the railways increased by more than 60%, while knife crime has tripled in three years. What are you doing to tackle crime and passenger safety issues on the railways?

I would be grateful if you could reply by Monday 3 June 2019.

Lilian Greenwood MP
Chair of the Transport Committee