Dear Paul

16-17 Railcard

Thank you for your letter of 28 January about the Millennial Railcard. On 2 January the Secretary of State for Transport announced a new railcard for 16-17-year-olds, and it is clear from recent answers to Parliamentary Questions that the Department for Transport is in discussions with the RDG to develop and implement the 16-17 railcard. Baroness Sugg recently said "The 26-30 railcard is an industry-led initiative which is well supported by train operating companies and the Rail Delivery Group. Franchised train operators will be contractually required to accept the 16-17 railcard."

I have several questions about the new card.

1. How will the 16-17 railcard be funded, and what estimate have you made of how the introduction of this railcard will affect revenues for train operating companies?

2. Will all current franchises be required to offer the new Railcard or will this requirement only apply to franchises let after the railcard is launched later this year?

3. Will your discussions with the Department be complete in time for the new railcard to be launched in September 2019?

4. How will the 16-17 railcard work alongside with the existing arrangements for the 16-25 Railcard, and do you expect to have to make changes to the 16-25 Railcard?

5. Why has the Government proposed introducing a new 16-17 rail card, instead of simply introducing a higher discount rate for 16 and 17 year olds holding a 16-25 railcard?

6. What evidence is there that people eligible for a 16-17 railcard or a 16-25 railcard can make an informed choice and understand the benefits and costs of each option?

I look forward to receiving your reply. You should be aware that I intend to ask the Committee to publish our correspondence.

Lilian Greenwood MP
Chair of the Transport Committee

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