



Boris Johnson
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing St
London SW1A 2AA

8th April 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We would like to congratulate you on the new National Bus Strategy and the unique opportunity it represents to transform bus services in England.

As a charity that campaigns for inclusive, accessible transport, we particularly welcome the Strategy's ambition to address the nation's levelling-up agenda.

'Bus Back Better' recognises the crucial role buses play in connecting people to education, training, services and employment. Nowhere is this more important than in rural areas which have seen bus services decimated over the past decade.

It was surprising, therefore, to discover that applications to the new Electric Bus Fund will only be accepted for standard single or double decker vehicles. These vehicles are largely unsuitable for hard-to-reach areas, especially those in rural communities with low passenger numbers and narrow roads.

In the interests of levelling-up, we would urge Government to extend the Electric Bus Fund to vehicles of all sizes, by changing the parameters or setting aside part of the fund specifically for this purpose, ensuring that every community has access to sustainable and environmentally friendly transport options.

We greatly look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Claire Walters
Chief Executive

cc Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport (by email)