



Department
for Transport

Councillor Bryan Jones
Cabinet Member for Operations
Monmouthshire County Council
PO Box 106, Caldicot
NP26 9AN

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Paul Maynard MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: paul.maynard@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/212191

057

Dear Mr. Jones

Thank you for your letter of 10 November to Chris Grayling about accessibility improvements at Abergavenny and Chepstow stations. I am replying as Minister responsible for rail.

Unfortunately many of our stations date from a time when the needs of disabled passengers were simply not considered in the same way that they are now and only around a fifth of UK stations have proper step free access to and between each platform.

We have therefore continued with the Access for All programme which was first launched in 2006 and which included Abergavenny. As you know a solution could not be found at that time and after discussions with the Welsh Government, the project had to be stopped.

I am pleased to say though that we will be able to make further funding for station accessibility available for the next Rail Control Period (2019-24) and we will be announcing further details early next year. I hope you will understand that I cannot at this stage guarantee that Abergavenny will be selected and based on previous rounds of funding we are likely to have more candidate stations than we can afford. However, as the station has previously been selected for the programme I would expect it to be a very strong candidate for funding, particularly if it retains the support of the Welsh Government and the train operator.

Similarly with Chepstow we would welcome a further nomination with strong industry and Welsh Government support. The station was not selected last time because it was given a relatively low priority by Arriva Trains Wales and

because of its low annual footfall compared with other stations that were put forward, so a proportion of third party funding towards the cost of the work would help in weighting the business case.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope that this explains the position.

Yours ever,

Paul

PAUL MAYNARD