

Mr Jonathan Lord MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: AFAWSX001

5 October 2018

Dear Mr Lord

Making railway stations in your constituency more accessible

We are writing to you regarding our aspiration to make our network more accessible for passengers and to ask you to recommend stations you think should be improved.

As you may be aware, the Department for Transport (DfT) has announced funding will be available for station access improvements across the UK to be delivered in Network Rail's Control Period 6 (2019 to 2024). This is through the Access for All (AfA) programme.

We will be nominating stations on the South Western Railway (SWR) network to DfT, which will be considered against criteria (provided overleaf). Each nominated station must have a compelling business case demonstrating how the funding would make a real difference to the community the station serves.

Local insight will be vital to our submission and we would be grateful if you would please review the selection criteria and let us know which station or stations you think we should nominate and why.

We would need to receive this by Friday 26 October, with a view to submitting stations in mid-November. Guide questions to answer are provided on the next page.

We are also speaking to local authorities and other stakeholders across our network to find out which stations people would like to see upgraded. All of this information will be used to develop our final list of stations to nominate to DfT, and we will reference external support in our submission.

AfA funding is limited and the application process is very competitive. While we will make every effort to secure funding for all of the stations we submit, there is no guarantee they will all be approved. Should this be the case, we would look to put forward unsuccessful stations for any future accessibility funding.

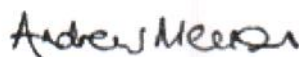
The public affairs lead for Network Rail's Wessex route, Aeneas Tole, would be happy to receive any information from you.

With your input we believe we will be able to submit strong and evidence based nominations, hopefully helping us to secure funding to deliver a more accessible railway, which our customers want and deserve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky Lumlock".

Becky Lumlock
Route Managing Director, Wessex
Network Rail

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Mellors".

Andy Mellors
Managing Director
South Western Railway

DfT assessment criteria for Access for All funding

Nominated stations will be assessed primarily against similar criteria to those used in previous Network Rail funding periods (Control Periods 1-5).

These are:

- Footfall, using figures published by the Office of Rail and Road (we will supply these).
- The availability of third party funding.
- Stations where there is a particularly high incidence of disability in the area, based on Census data.
- A particular local circumstance such as the proximity of hospitals, a school for disabled children or a military rehabilitation centre for example, or stations with relatively high numbers of interchange passengers.
- Stations that would help to fill "gaps" in accessibility on the network.

Guide Questions

1. Which station/s do you wish to nominate?
2. What improvements do you wish to see?
3. Are there any local circumstances that mean making accessibility improvements here would benefit more disabled customers? *NB - this can include plans for new developments.*
4. Are you aware of any potential third party funding opportunities?
5. How would improvements at this station help to fill gaps in accessible public transport in the area?

Name:

Organisation:

Contact Details:

We will share the consultation results with DfT, including details of your organisation, so that we can show the range of support for particular schemes. We will hold your contact details so that we can contact you for more information.