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Sarah Champion
Member of Parliament for Rotherham

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Sarah Champion MP welcomes news that paper timetables will remain

Sarah Champion, Member of Parliament for Rotherham, says she's delighted that paper timetables will still be available for public transport users. It was announced in December that the production of the schedules would be scrapped as part of the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive's cuts of around £7.6 million.

Since that decision was made, Sarah was approached by a number of constituents concerned about the impact it would have on the most vulnerable in society. They were worried that although the schedules would still be available online, many of those who relied on the paper counterparts didn't have internet access.

Sarah agreed that the effect it could have on the elderly and most vulnerable in particular was much greater than anticipated and took action. She wrote to both the SYPTE and the Transport Secretary Patrick McCloughlin to see if a solution could be found.

It has now been confirmed in a reply to Sarah that although the SYPTE will not be funding the paper timetables, they will remain available to passengers. That's because a number of the operators, including First, Stagecoach and TM Travel, have agreed to produce the schedules for some of their services. Increased signage will also be introduced alongside further support from Customer Service Advisors.

Discussing the news, Sarah said:

"I'm delighted with the news. I sympathise with the SYPTE who had to make some very difficult decisions when it came to where cuts to services would be made, but I felt that keeping paper timetables was vital."

"My concern was for the elderly and the most vulnerable losing something which they rely on to get around day-to-day. A number of constituents approached me with exactly the same worries, so it's great news that the operators will now be producing these schedules. It's pleasing to see that the genuine concerns of passengers have been taken on board by the companies."

"The most vulnerable in society still get the service they need and the operators still get their passengers. I intervened because I wanted a solution to be found which best suited all parties; I believe that has been reached."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

<http://www.sarahchampionmp.com/sarah-champion-mp-writes-to-transport-secretary-in-a-bid-to-overturn-cuts-to-paper-timetables/>

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