

02 February 2016

Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Our Ref: AG/GUES01001/01150893  
Your Ref:

Dear Patrick

I am writing to you regarding the prevention of hate crime on public transport.

As you may know, Rotherham has seen an increase in hate crime in recent months. This alarming rise in this insidious and deeply damaging crime has of course been deeply concerning to the community.

In response to this, I have held a number of meetings with community groups, faith leaders and individuals who have been affected by hate crime to allow them to share their experiences and to work towards a cohesive strategy to tackle hate crime head on.

During these meetings, it became apparent that many people had been affected by hate crime and abuse on public transport. I am also aware of a number of incidents nationally that have received significant public attention.

Following these meetings, I wrote to South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to highlight these concerns and to request

information on their policies for tackling hate crime. Whilst SYPTE's response was encouraging, it was apparent that due to the wide range of operators responsible for delivering transport services, policies on hate crime were piecemeal and varied. I am concerned that this may impact on the ability to ensure that everyone is able to have a safe and secure journey, free from abuse, intimidation or violence.

I believe, therefore, that it would be constructive for central government to issue guidance to transport operators on best practice and policy for meeting the challenge of hate crime.

I would be grateful for your comments on this matter and for any information you may be able to provide on the Department for Transport's approach to ensuring public transport remains safe for all.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Champion MP  
Member of Parliament for Rotherham