



Department  
for Transport

From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps**

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Dear Colleague

### **Relieving pressure on public transport**

The transport sector has done an excellent job of keeping Britain moving amid the challenges of recent weeks. It has enabled key workers on the frontline of the fight against coronavirus to get to work, and have kept critical supplies moving.

On Sunday, the Prime Minister set out the Government's roadmap for easing lockdown conditions, and earlier this week my Department published new guidance for transport operators and passengers.

This guidance is clear that people should consider if their journey is necessary and anyone who can work from home is being asked to continue to do so. Furthermore, people should look to travel at off-peak times, if they can.

Transport will obviously play a fundamental role in facilitating and communicating this message to passengers, however it's also important that businesses engage with their employees to encourage people who are working to avoid using public transport. This may mean that people consider walking or cycling if they can, which will reduce pressure on the public transport system and the road network. Baroness Vere will be in touch shortly to arrange calls to discuss what this means for your organisation and its members in practice.

I understand that for some people without access to a car public transport will be the only option for them to travel to their workplace, and that changing travel times to avoid the peak may require changes to working practices. In this case employees should adhere to the passenger guidance to try and maintain social distancing and consider wearing a face covering to protect other passengers.

As the Prime Minister set out, this is just an initial step in the country's ongoing effort to defeat the virus. I and my Ministerial colleagues are keen to work closely with you and your business membership as we prepare for the next stage of our country's response.

Finally, I would like to thank you, your members and all your employees for your tireless efforts. Once again, please pass on my gratitude and thanks to your wider teams.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', written in a cursive style.

**Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**