

Department for **Transport**

Head of Project Delivery
Chiltern Railways
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14 Rickfords Hill
Aylesbury
HP20 2RX

Dear Sir/Madam,

Railways for All
Department for Transport
Zone 4/29
Great Minister House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

railwaysforall@dft.gsi.gov.uk

February 2011

Access for All Small Schemes Programme

I am writing to clarify the position on the future of the Access for All Small Schemes programme.

Although the Department's capital programmes survived last year's Comprehensive Spending Review relatively intact we have been asked by Ministers to look at reducing administration costs. A number of options for the future of Access for All were therefore considered.

In formulating these options we also considered the risks and benefits of continued DfT sponsorship for the programme, or whether responsibility for this could effectively be devolved to the railway industry. We concluded that sponsorship of the larger projects remained an appropriate activity for Government, due to the commitments under our Disability Equality Duty and the Coalition Government's commitment to promoting equality of opportunity. However, we also concluded that devolving the smaller projects to new franchisees, in line with longer term franchising strategy, would both be appropriate and save the Department central administration costs.

In practice this means that Ministers have agreed that the main programme will continue in its current form until at least 2015 with the Department continuing to challenge Network Rail to improve efficiency.

Delivery of the Small Schemes programme will be transferred to the train operating companies from 1 April. The budget for 2011/12 has been set at £5m and this has been allocated to each operator based on the number of stations that they manage and the annual footfall of those stations. There will no longer be a requirement to bid for funding but each operator will need to provide a schedule of works for approval by the Department. Projects will need to be completed by 31 March 2012 with payment on completion and the projects must be clearly focused on improving access for disabled people.

The budget allocation for 2011/12 for Chiltern is £64,000. I would be grateful if you could submit a proposal on how this will be spent to the railwaysforall@dft.gsi.gov.uk mailbox by 31 March 2011. We will endeavour

to approve these within two weeks to allow work to commence as soon as possible.

If you require any further information please contact the Railways for All team at railwaysforall@dft.gsi.gov.uk

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