

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd August 2016

Dear Constituent,

RE: TALKING BUSES

Thank you for contacting me about the audio-visual announcements on buses. I fully agree that all disabled people should have the same access to transport services and opportunities to travel as other members of society.

Audio-visual systems on buses are not currently mandatory and, for this reason, levels of provision may vary. The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) do, however, require all new buses and coaches on local or scheduled services and designed to carry more than 22 passengers to be accessible to disabled passengers.

In addition, all existing public service buses will have to comply with PSVAR by January 2017. As a result, local buses are steadily becoming more accessible, and the most recent figures show that 89 per cent of the bus fleet in England met the PSVAR requirements compared to just 59 per cent in 2009/10.

I do understand the benefits that audio-visual systems on buses can bring to passengers and Ministers have encouraged bus operators and local authorities to invest in audio-visual announcement systems for their buses where possible. Previously, however, the systems to provide such information have been expensive to fit and maintain, so Ministers have supported projects to design innovative and low-cost approaches to providing accessible on-board information and I understand that new technology may make it more affordable.

I understand that Ministers are currently considering the most appropriate next steps.

I understand how important accessible buses are and I look forward to visiting the Guide Dogs stand at Party Conference.

Thank you however for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.