

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP
House of Commons
London

Dear Mike Penning MP,

I am very concerned about continued cuts to Hertfordshire's bus services. At least 40 services across the county have been withdrawn completely, partly withdrawn or are being replaced by other services. New research from the Institute of Public Policy Research that found "buses underpin local economies by linking workers with jobs, and customers with shops and leisure opportunities. They provide essential services for those without access to a car, including many young people, pensioners, disabled people, those on low pay or who are out of work, and people who are disadvantaged in other ways."

Hertfordshire bus services are a crucial lifeline for many people in the county, but especially those of us who are either older, younger, disabled, seeking a job or on a low income. Cuts to weekday evening services will effect the ability of commuters to return home from work and Sunday cuts will make it hard for town centre staff to get to and from their place of work. All this will have a detrimental effect on the town centre economic viability which I am sure you are concerned about.

Continuing to cut these services would not only greatly impoverish us, but also harm the Hertfordshire economy as a whole. More people commute to work on buses than all other modes of public transport combined. For every £1 spent on buses they generate between £3 and £5 in wider economic benefits. Cutting buses is a false economy.

Buses are a key issue for millions of people and buses really must be given the political recognition from Members of Parliament that they deserve.

This year looks like it will be even worse than last for bus cuts – with over £10 million already earmarked to be cut by local authorities across the country.

I want to call on you as my MP to recognise the importance of Hertfordshire's buses and tell me what you and your party will do to stand up and speak up for buses in the coming weeks and months.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Address: