



Josh Fenton-Glynn MP
Member of Parliament for Calder Valley
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Naomi Crewe
Town Clerk
Todmorden Town Council
Bridge Street
Todmorden
OL14 5AQ

03 February 2026

Dear Naomi,

Re: West Yorkshire bus franchising

Thank you for your letter to raise the important issue of the bus service in the Upper Valley, and the future of the provision.

I share your concerns regarding the bus services through Todmorden, and their future as West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) work towards a franchising agreement. I am grateful for the work Todmorden Town Councillors have done on this issue and want to thank you for continuing to push for Todmorden to receive the public transport services it needs.

Todmorden has already seen a reduced bus service over recent years, with transport through the town infrequent and often unreliable. I know the particular impact this has had on those travelling to school, college and work in Burnley and Rochdale, and on those living in Walsden, Cornholme and other outlying areas.

The future of the service under franchising is a concern, and it is worrying that as of yet the arrangements for our cross-border services are unclear. While I understand the difficulties cross-border services can pose in franchising agreements, we must ensure that any alternative permitting system does not leave behind our Upper Valley buses and guarantees a reliable and frequent service through Todmorden and surrounding areas.

I note with interest the attached letter and response from the Mayor of Greater Manchester, and agree with his commitment for the priority in any arrangements to be benefiting passengers and regional connectivity.

As you may have seen, I have already raised the concerns regarding the future of the service with WYCA and will continue to speak with them as we approach franchising coming into effect to ensure Todmorden is not left behind. I would of course be happy to meet with you and others to discuss how we can work to move this issue forward.

Yours sincerely,

Josh Fenton-Glynn MP
Member of Parliament for Calder Valley