



Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

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Friends of the Derwent Valley Line  
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31<sup>st</sup> August 2010  
Ref: PM/AB

Dear Ernie

Further to my letter of 27<sup>th</sup> July and our meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August, I have now received the enclosed reply from Theresa Villiers, Minister of State at the Department for Transport.

As you will see, the Minister is incredibly supportive and very well aware of the dedication of the Friends of the Derwent Valley Line. She appears keen to do what she can to help.

However, it looks like the extra services that you have called for to help with over crowding are the responsibility of East Midlands Trains. The larger projects which you set out in your initial letter are very much dependant on resources but the Minister insists that her officials will continue to give advice on ways to take these projects forward.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP

*Patrick McLoughlin - Working for Derbyshire Dales*

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Department for  
**Transport**

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25 AUG 2010

*Dear Patrick*

Thank you for your letter of 27 July enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Mr Ernie Marchant of Station House, Whatstandwell, Matlock, Derbyshire. Mr Marchant had written on behalf of the Friends of Derwent Valley Line (FDVL).

I am very impressed with the work of the Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) who manage to deliver considerable benefits to rail users and communities on rural lines at low cost. Often these improvements are achieved using the services of dedicated rail enthusiast and voluntary groups. I support their work.

I am aware of the dedication of FDVL who, working with the Derwent Valley Line CRP, have managed to encourage many improvements on the Matlock to Derby Line.

CRPs are local concerns and their continuation depends on the support of the industry, local authorities and the other voluntary and non-voluntary groups forming the partnership. The Department continue to support and finance the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) who play a major role in Community Rail and work closely with the Department, Train Operating Companies (TOCs), Network Rail and all CRPs.

I note your comments about overcrowding on the Derwent Line and a solution for dealing with the problem. The provision of extra services is largely down to East Midlands Trains (EMT) depending on whether the service is commercial. If the service is not commercial then it would not be

possible to take this forward at present but would be reviewed at the time of the next re-franchising in the light of available funding and value for money. I note that Cromford Station has been refurbished and you indicate that there is now a need to refurbish the station buildings at Matlock and Matlock Bath together with some tree clearance at Cromford Station. As you will know, smaller projects are often supported by ACoRP and the CRPs. More ambitious projects will depend on the availability of local resources and financing which are always going to be limited. Ownership and tenancy of properties can also cause complications. My officials along with ACoRP will continue to provide appropriate advice to take any project forward.

I hope this reply is helpful and thank you once again for writing on this matter.

*Regards  
Theresa*

**THE RT. HON. THERESA VILLIERS**