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4 May 2004

Dear Mr Reinke

### **Rural Bus Challenge Awards - 1999 and 2002**

With reference to your letter to Linda Neale of the Public Transport Unit of 1 April 2004, I would like to confirm that the funding awarded in the 1999 Rural Bus Challenge bid (Information Technology) will be required for the years 2004/05 and 2005/06, and that the funding awarded in the 2002 Rural Bus Challenge bid (Derbyshire Integrated Rural Transport) will be required from April 2004.

It is intended that the funding from the 1999 RBC bid will be used for a substantially similar scheme to that originally intended, although some of the actual locations identified in the bid are likely to be different. It will run alongside the successful Rural Bus Challenge bid submitted in 2002, and provide enhanced information provision along the A6 (the enhanced Trans Peak service). The revised locations for the provision of the information terminals are likely to be Bakewell, Buxton, Belper and New Mills (as identified in the original bid) together with other interchange points, such as Matlock, along the A6 corridor as identified in the later bid.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this is acceptable.

Delays have been encountered in agreeing the details of operation of the enhanced Trans Peak service. However, lengthy discussions with the incumbent operator and another operator are leading to a likely resolution of these difficulties which, it is hoped, will be completed during the next few weeks. Unfortunately, this has meant that the start of this enhanced service has been delayed. It is hoped that the full enhanced service will be able to commence in late 2004, but certainly no later than April 2005. An interim

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improvement to the service commenced on 1 April 2004, with the introduction of two additional Monday to Friday peak time journeys in order to retain passengers.

The objectives and anticipated benefits underlying both bids remain unchanged.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Pickford  
Acting Head of Public Transport