



Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State for Transport
By Email

27 August 2024

Dear Louise

I'm writing to ask for your assistance in expediting the long overdue upgrade of Ledbury station to make it fully accessible to disabled users and others who need step-free access. Currently the platform for London- and Birmingham-bound trains is completely inaccessible to such travellers. The only access to that platform is via a footbridge.

I have received a number of letters from residents on this issue in the last few weeks. Here is an extract from one recent such letter:

"My brother had a motorcycle accident some time ago which left him with a broken pelvis, hands, knee and torn ligaments. This meant he was at QE for 5 weeks after many operations. He requires ongoing treatment and so we decided as he is wheelchair bound to go via train to QE as and when needed ... I booked train from Ledbury to Birmingham University and also booked passenger assist for some ramps as he would need to cross the tracks for platform 2 at Ledbury. No help turned up at all and our mother rang for help at assistance point and still nobody came so he had no option but to hop up the stairs across the bridge and hop down the other side. Leaving our elderly father with a bad back to carry the wheelchair. Surely there needs to be provision for this as like hereford station. Ledbury is unmanned as we know but it's not disabled accessible at all."

Please can you assure me that funding will finally be made available for making Ledbury station accessible for all, and let me know what the timescale is for this? Thank you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With thanks and best wishes,

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.