



The Rt Hon Louise Haigh MP
Secretary of State for Transport
By Email

5 November 2024

Dear Ms Haigh,

I am writing on behalf of a constituent who volunteers with Home-Start, an organisation supporting vulnerable families in Herefordshire. They are concerned about the challenges faced by a mother in their care whose daughter will be unable to continue her education post-16 due to prohibitive travel costs.

The family lives in a village near Bromyard, where there is no local sixth form. To attend college in Hereford, the daughter would need to travel by bus, incurring an annual cost of £1,500, an amount the family cannot afford.

The situation highlights a serious inequity faced by rural families: unlike in urban areas, many must shoulder significant costs just to access education. My constituent and I believe this is fundamentally unfair. It is worth noting that:

- Pensioners in England enjoy free bus travel, but young people who depend on buses for education do not.
- In Scotland, bus travel is free for all under 22s, easing the financial burden on families and encouraging young people to stay in education.

Will the government please commit to introducing free bus travel for children and young people in England?

Best wishes,

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.