



Department  
for Transport

Rt Hon Anna Soubry MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

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15 May

Thank you for your email of 20 April, and the attachment for a business case prepared by the Friends of Beeston Station voluntary group, for better access at Beeston station.

All of the Access for All funding has been allocated to projects until 2019. However, I am pleased to say that we will be able to make further funding for station accessibility available for the next Rail Control Period (2019-24) and we will be announcing further details of how this will be allocated later this year.

Stations nominated by the industry have previously been selected based on their annual footfall, weighted by the incidence of disability in the area. Local factors, such as proximity to a hospital, and the availability of third party funding, were also taken into account. At this stage I expect the process to broadly similar again.

Unfortunately only around 20 per cent of stations have proper step free access to and between each platform. We would normally therefore target the funding at stations with no access at all. However, in this case a 500m transfer route between platforms does sound excessive and would clearly not be useable by many disabled passengers.

I hope you will appreciate that I cannot guarantee any station being selected for the programme, but for schemes such as Beeston to be considered they will need strong support from the train operating company and ideally an element of third party funding to help weight the business case. I would therefore encourage you to engage with East Midlands Trains (EMT), who are the current franchise holder. They also have some funding available as

part of their franchise minor works budget that could potentially be used for smaller scale access improvements, such as the handrail and stair nosing issues highlighted in the report, improving signage or providing an additional boarding ramp on platform 2. You may therefore wish to ask EMT if they will consider allocating some of this funding to Beeston.

I hope that this reply explains the current position and I would like to reassure you that we take the issue of improving access to the rail network very seriously.

W.h. bst visit



**Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**