



Department for
Transport

From the Minister of State

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Ans Mr Wagstaff.

Thank you for your letter of 7 April asking about the deployment of additional carriages in the West of England.

You will appreciate that achieving the necessary agreements to enable the deployment of additional carriages is a complex process. It involves agreement on the supply and financing of trains, and the provision of adequate depot and stabling facilities as well as other infrastructure. In addition, the Department and Train Operating Company need to reach a commercial agreement on the contractual terms on which any additional capacity will be deployed which is both affordable and value for money.

The Department is actively considering proposals covering all the above areas, and currently hopes that the various commercial agreements can be concluded by the end of 2009.

It would be at this point that the Department would be able to state with certainty the timing of any agreed additional capacity – although clearly we are committed to trying to achieve early deployment in advance of the 2014 deadline if at all possible.

*Yours sincerely,
Andrew Adonis*

ANDREW ADONIS