

Name of Local
Councillor
Address

Insert your Address

Date

Dear

I am writing to you as a constituent of yours and a civil servant working for the Department for Work and Pensions at Peel Park.

I am very concerned about the proposals to cut the bus service to DWP Peel Park. May I take the opportunity of setting out some background information, which may be useful.

Background – The majority of the DWP Norcross Closure

The announcement was made on Wednesday 27th June 2012 to close the majority of the DWP Norcross site. At that stage there wasn't a bus service to Peel Park. There had been one previously from Lytham to Peel Park as a result of the closure of the DWP Moorland Road site; however this ran from 2008 until 2011.

Prior to 2008 there had been a service for a period called the "ITSA bus".

Extension of the Number 14 bus service to Peel Park

There were three agreed joint statements as part of the DWP Moorland Road closure. The first and key one relates to the major issue which was the access to Peel Park by public transport. The details below are from the agreed joint statement that was issued to staff at the Lytham Moorland Road site before it was due to close.

The following therefore applies (please note that the "definition" is the Mobility Rules for members in the DWP):

"The question of a lack of adequate public transport services between Lytham and Peel Park is a key issue both in terms of mobility and safety issues:

The main provisions of the Mobility Policy are shown..... Based on this definition, the fact that there is currently no public transport service to Peel Park means there will be a significant number of people outside the mobility rule.

All parties agree that there are safety problems with the existing pedestrian access arrangements onto the Peel Park site using any bus route."

Part of the discussions in 2012 surrounded safe access to Peel Park by public transport.

The matter was raised with all the local MPs and the Leader of the Blackpool Council.

The then Minister declined to sign off the Norcross closure until there was safe access by public transport (the transport plan).

In April 2013 the new number 14 bus timetable came in including the extended service and the extension of the route to Peel Park.

Funding

Although my union, PCS, hasn't seen the actual business case undertaken by the DWP (which will have undoubtedly been commercial in confidence) the funding to extend the number 14 was of a "prime pump" nature and for a limited period of time (the collective shared recollection was that 3 years was the timeframe).

Announcement at the Peel Park House Committee on 13th January 2016

At the Peel Park House Committee on 13th January 2016 it was confirmed that as of April 2016 the "prime pump" funding will cease. This could lead to the number 14 bus service extension to Peel Park ceasing or it may be dramatically reduced in terms of frequency.

Extension in 2016

Following the announcement in January 2016 the my union, PCS, contacted the local MPs and the Leader of the Blackpool Council and pressed for the continuation of the service to Peel Park. This was successful albeit with a reduced service

2017 Information

The Blackpool Transport pages indicate from 2nd April 2017 the No 14 bus route ends in Blackpool and the No 6 bus continues to Tesco. My union, PCS, contacted the Leader of the Blackpool Council about the potential ending of the bus service to Peel Park.

The response from Blackpool Transport (on behalf of Blackpool Council leadership) was:

"The morning number 6 service arrives at Peel Park at 0829; this journey starts at Grange Park at 0739, serving Blackpool Town Centre at 0800.

For passengers travelling from Fleetwood will need to board the 0700 from Fleetwood and change in Blackpool Town Centre.

In the afternoon the number 6 will leave Peel Park at 1711 arriving into Blackpool at 1745. Passengers travelling towards Fleetwood will need to catch the 1800 number 14."

This would appear to mean that DWP Peel Park is no longer accessible safely by public transport from 2nd April 2017 for the majority of the working day.

I would be grateful if you could raise this issue as my elected local councillor.

I look forward to your reply

Yours Sincerely

Insert your name