

Dear Douglas,

Thanks for getting in touch with me about the 142 and 258 bus routes.

I know how important both of these routes are for so many people locally. Many people use these two bus routes to get to work and school and so I want to clarify first of all that neither of these routes will be cancelled. I'm afraid that there has been some scaremongering at play here and so I wanted to let you know straight away that there is absolutely no danger of these two routes being cut.

As soon as I heard these rumours myself I got in touch with Derrick Ashley who is responsible for planning and transport at Hertfordshire County Council. He has told me that Hertfordshire County Council are in the process of negotiating the subsidies that they pay TfL for local bus routes that don't make much money but that local people really rely on. But this is obviously not the case with the 288 and the 142 as it does turnover a profit.

Hertfordshire County Council currently subsidise the 258 and the 142 and its costs the tax payer around £900,000 a year, which is a huge amount of money for the council but a relatively small amount for TfL.

As you will know, both the 258 and the 142 are commercially viable routes so there is no way that either of these services will be cut. What the council are trying to do is save money by not subsidising routes that TfL makes money on which I think is absolutely right. I don't believe that the tax payer should be subsidising a commercially viable route, particularly routes that turnover a profit like these two do.

I can certainly understand why you'd be concerned to hear these rumours but hopefully I've put your mind at ease slightly. If you'd like to discuss this or anything else further then please just let me know as I'd be happy to.

Best,

Richard

From: "HARRINGTON, Richard" <richard.harrington.mp@parliament.uk>

Date: 26 February 2016 at 4:15:59 pm GMT

To: Douglas McQuaid

Subject: RE: Bus Routes - I got this from Richard Harrington

Dear Douglas,

Thanks for your email.

I wanted to reply to you straight away as I was equally annoyed when I read that the Watford Observer had printed a story claiming that these bus routes will be cut. This was a clear misprint and so I'm glad that the Watford Observer has already amended the article following multiple complaints to the editor. This is clear evidence that the story was factually incorrect. I still personally feel that the replacement article suggests that these services will be cut, which of course isn't the case, but they have at least taken down the claim that these routes will be 'axed' in April which is absolutely right.

Just to be clear, I have actually spoken to Hertfordshire County Council again this morning and there is absolutely no danger of our cross border services being cut. I have had it confirmed to me on numerous occasions that these services will be maintained and so I'm just disappointed that this scaremongering is continuing.

Thanks again for getting in touch with me about this.

Best,

Richard

Richard Harrington MP

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From: "HARRINGTON, Richard" <richard.harrington.mp@parliament.uk>

Date: 4 March 2016 at 2:55:46 pm GMT

To: Douglas McQuaid

Subject: RE: Bus Routes - I got this from Richard Harrington

Dear Douglas,

You are welcome to quote me, I stand by what I have said.

In addition to this, Cllr Derrick Ashley has said: "we have informed TfL that we are withdrawing our support and they have informed us that they have no plans to make any changes to any routes between London and Hertfordshire"

Best wishes

Richard