

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 OCTOBER 2021**

**Question to Cllr David Williams  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

**By Cllr Pardesi**

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**Question**

What is this Council's response to the former UN Special Rapporteur who recently said of our bus services that "deregulation has provided a master class in how not to run an essential public service"?

What does this Council have to say to those that the Rapporteur's report says "it found many people have lost jobs and benefits, faced barriers to healthcare, been forced to give up on education, sacrificed food and utilities and have been cut off from friends and family because of a costly, fragmented and inadequate privatised bus service that has failed them"?

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**Reply**

I am aware of the report produced by Philip Alston, the former UN Rapporteur, where he comments on bus deregulation in Great Britain, introduced as part of the Transport Act 1985 some thirty-five years ago.

Although the setting of operational models for the provision of public transport in Great Britain is a matter for Central Government, clearly much has changed in those thirty-five years and we all need a public transport network that is fit for the future.

This Council has provided support for the local bus industry over the last difficult 18 months and is working closely with operators to help Staffordshire bus passenger figures return and hopefully exceed the pre Covid-19 figure of c15m passenger trips per year.

These bus trips help connect people to jobs, enable access to health care and education and link people to friends and family.