Greetings all

I attach (at last!) draft revised guidance on franchising of local bus services. This would replace the existing franchising guidance published in November 2017 that can be downloaded from the DfT website. Many thanks particularly to colleagues in GMCA for their advice and help in preparing the new content.

There is one particular area where we would particularly welcome views. Sections 2.6-2.7 on Page 6 seeks to draw a sensible line between the existing and new guidance. It attempts to provide flexibility to allow individual LTAs to take into account the different stages you all are at in the franchising process and avoid reworking of any existing work you have done on your franchising assessment, based upon the existing guidance. If you have any difficulties with this section or require new or amended wording, please explain why and suggest in the draft (as track changes) what you would like any amended wording to say and return to me.

If you would like alternative wording on any of the rest of the document, again, please explain why and make track changes. Can’t promise anything though as they may need to go through our lawyers etc.

If you anticipate problems meeting the 30 September deadline please let me know.

Many thanks and kind regards

[REDACTED]
Head of Franchising, Partnership and Competition Policy
Good Morning Everyone

I hope you are all well.

Following the email below, we have so far only received comments from colleagues in Greater Manchester Combined Authority. We have therefore decided to extend the deadline for any further comments to 31 October as we are very keen to receive any feedback you have about the revised guidance attached. Please note that this will be a final deadline for providing comments.

Please could I ask you to send any comments you have to [REDACTED]@dft.gov.uk and Myself, copying in [REDACTED]@dft.gov.uk

Many thanks and all the best

[REDACTED]

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