



Department
for Transport

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From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of
State
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Dear Paul,

In advance of our first meeting, which I am looking forward to, I am writing to ask you to exercise an industry leading role with your members in response to the recently published Women and Equalities Select Committee published a report on sexual harassment of women and girls in public places.

Sexual misconduct is a criminal offence so the British Transport Police (BTP) lead activity to deal with it on the railways. As you are aware BTP have processes and a campaign in place to encourage people who suffer harassment or assault of a sexual nature to report it to them under 'Project Guardian' and more recently through its 'Report it to Stop It' campaign. Their successful confidential text service, 61016, is also used to report crimes of this nature.

I understand that the considerable partnership activity across the rail industry has seen a significant uplift in reporting, and this shows that victims have a greater confidence to come forward and as a consequence there is an increased arrest rate by BTP.

I am keen that there should be an industry-wide response to this issue have asked my officials to support you in developing a package of measures which would be available to all operators.

I envisage this as a minimum comprising of:

- Adoption of the Report It to Stop It campaign by industry, including a commitment to develop a national campaign based on the Report It's principles and exploring partnership funding options;
- A national commitment by operators to sign up to the Friendly WiFi scheme;

- Posters and messaging on the network, which the BTP are keen to see; and
- Improvements to staff training and support for operators.

We will also look at options open to us through the franchising process. However the approach above has the advantage of immediate effectiveness rather than waiting for franchises to come to an end. Your adoption of this co-ordinating role of industry-led action would send a powerful statement that train operating companies are taking the issue seriously. In my view taking such action now will reduce the number of victims of this dreadful crime.

Working closely with your team in the RDG I have asked [REDACTED] and her Passenger Experience team to be the DfT leads on this project, in turn coordinating closely with other DfT teams.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Yours sincerely,
Andrew*

ANDREW JONES