

OFFICIAL



From the Minister of State for Rail  
**Huw Merriman MP**

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Our Ref: RYR 387

Sir Geoffrey Cox KC MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

cc: Jamie Hulland, Devon County Council [REDACTED]

4 October 2023

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

**Restoring Your Railway – RYR 387 – reopening the Tavistock to Plymouth line**

Thank you for your continued engagement with the Restoring Your Railway programme and congratulations for making it this far with the reopening of the Tavistock to Plymouth line proposal.

Following our award of grant funding to support the submission of a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for the scheme, the Tavistock to Plymouth line SOBC has been assessed. Further to today's announcement, I'm delighted to be able to confirm that the project will be funded to delivery, subject to future updates to the project business case.

The assessment considered the strategic and economic case presented, deliverability of the scheme and infrastructure requirements, with a focus on the transport issue and strength of case for intervention. This scheme presents significant potential to improve connectivity between Tavistock and Plymouth, and I look forward to seeing it progress.

Funding will be provided to Network Rail to lead the next stage of work and support close collaboration with Devon County Council (DCC) to progress the scheme to the required standard. The Department will continue working with DCC and Network Rail on the development of this scheme and are in touch with Jamie Hulland (of DCC) regarding next steps. The enclosed feedback also aims to be supportive in this process.

Congratulations on progressing to the next stage. My officials and I very much look forward to working with you.

If you have any questions, please contact Nick Hester via email at [REDACTED] or alternatively you can email the Restoring your Railway Team at [restoringyourrailway@dft.gov.uk](mailto:restoringyourrailway@dft.gov.uk).

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Huw Merriman".

**HUW MERRIMAN MP**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAIL**