



Department
for Transport

Iain Stewart MP
Chair of the Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State
Huw Merriman MP

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15 May 2024

Dear Iain,

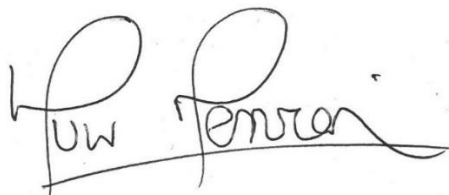
I am writing to you to notify you that my department will be launching a public consultation tomorrow on the proposal to lower the minimum age requirement to be a train driver in Great Britain from 20 to 18 years.

On 19 May 2023, my department published the findings and recommendations of the second post implementation review of the Train Driving Licences and Certificates Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/724), which highlighted strong support from across the rail sector to explore the case for lowering the minimum age requirement for train drivers from 20 to 18. This follows new research that indicates that the age requirement could be lowered safely using existing training, supervision, and testing processes, whilst potentially creating significant benefits in terms of enabling the industry to attract younger people to the sector that could increase the pool and diversity of train drivers in the industry in the future. The Office of Rail and Road (ORR), who are the licensing authority for train driving, have expressed support for this proposal in principle, subject to further work being undertaken to establish if any adaptations or adjustments should be made to existing processes to support any change.

The consultation will seek to obtain the views of the rail sector and wider public on this proposal, including ascertaining whether additional steps should be taken to support any transition if a change of law is made. The consultation will run from 16 May to 13 June 2024.

A copy of this letter, including the consultation document, has been placed in the libraries of the House of Commons and House of Lords for reference, should Honourable Members wish to read the case for change and respond to the consultation.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

HUW MERRIMAN MP

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT