

Transport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

23 April 2026

Dear Ruth Cadbury MP,

I am writing to provide the Transport Select Committee with an update on the government's work to introduce the Automated Passenger Services (APS) permitting scheme, a key step in implementing the Automated Vehicles Act 2024 and supporting the safe deployment of self-driving passenger services.

Today we published the Government Response to the APS permitting scheme consultation and laid the Automated Vehicles (Permits for Automated Passenger Services) Regulations 2026. The document is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/automated-passenger-services-permitting-scheme>

The Automated Vehicles Act 2024 establishes a world-leading legislative framework, setting out clear legal responsibilities, a robust safety framework and the regulatory powers necessary to support deployment while protecting the public. The APS permitting scheme introduces a rigorous and transparent process through which automated passenger services will be assessed, permitted and overseen as they begin to operate.

Automated passenger services have the potential to transform how people move around the country, improving road safety, widening access to transport and supporting greener and more reliable journeys.

The acceleration of the passenger piloting legislation was announced in June 2025, followed by the associated consultation starting in July 2025. Alongside the introduction of the scheme, today the Government is publishing its response to the consultation on the APS permitting scheme, setting out the approach to implementation and ongoing engagement.

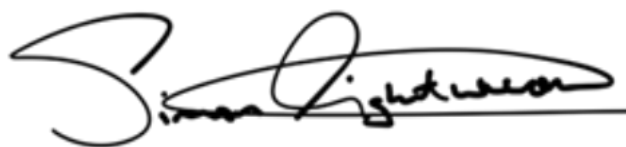
One change has been made to the statutory instrument following consultation to increase the scope of data sharing to enable wider non-safety related information to be shared with emergency responders, ensuring there is an awareness of how to interact with and respond to any incidents involving a permitted automated passenger service.

Safety is the Government's highest priority. Automated passenger services will be required to meet stringent safety standards before they are permitted to operate, with appropriate safeguarding and independent monitoring in place. Accessibility is also a central consideration, and the Department for Transport is establishing an APS Accessibility Advisory Panel to inform non-statutory guidance as services are deployed.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as we realise the benefits that automated passenger services can offer, while upholding the highest standards of safety, accessibility, and public trust.

My officials are happy to answer any queries you have, and I look forward to discussing these developments with you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Lightwood', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

SIMON LIGHTWOOD MP

MINISTER FOR ROADS AND BUSES