



**Department
for Transport**

From the Secretary of State

Permanent Secretary
Department for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP

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20th March 2020

Dear Bernadette,

Thank you for your letter of 20th March 2020 regarding the plans to begin committing funds to support the transport sector in light of the challenges faced during the Covid-19 pandemic. This letter is to confirm that I am directing you as Accounting Officer to begin committing funds to support the transport sector in these unprecedented times.

I have noted your concerns about complying with the Supply and Appropriation (Anticipation and Adjustments) Act 2020 and that expenditure now will lead to an 'excess vote' whereby the Department exceeds the budget approved by Parliament. I note that this spending is not regular, but welcome your assurance that it will be tested to ensure it is proper, feasible and value for money. Affordability is an important consideration, which I expect the Department to adhere to in the normal course of business. On this occasion, however, I believe it is important to consider the wider public interest with regards to the challenges of the Covid-19 to our country and our economy.

In light of these arguments I believe there are grounds for issuing you with a Ministerial Direction to proceed with spending in 2019-20 beyond the limits set out in the Supply and Appropriation (Anticipation and Adjustments) Act 2020.

I note that you will share copies of our letter with the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts and that HM Treasury are fully aware of the steps we are taking.

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT