



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

**Simon Lightwood MP**

Minister for Local Transport  
Great Minster House  
London SW1P 4DR

UK Parliament, 17 July 2025

Dear Minister,

The Prime Minister stated in PMQs yesterday, in a response to a question from Brian Leishman MP that “we are working with mayors and local leaders to develop a pipeline of orders” and “the minister for local transport is hosting an urgent meeting of the bus manufacturing expert panel”. These remarks from the Prime Minister are hugely welcome, and a positive sign that the government are taking seriously the risk of losing another core industry and employer in the Falkirk area.

We are writing to raise with you, ahead of discussions with mayors and the meeting of the Bus manufacturing expert panel, what is needed to keep Alexander Dennis viable and working in the area, specifically:

1. Enough orders to keep the company afloat for the end of 2025 and 2026, 70 buses for 2025 and 320 buses for 2026, allocated to Alexander Dennis’s sites in Falkirk and Larbert. The 320 for 2026 would be to keep the current employee headcount at both Falkirk and Larbert.
2. A Furlough scheme for a minimum of 18 weeks to bridge the gap between a direct award and beginning work– this would have to be in conjunction with the first ask.
3. A commitment from the largest buyers of buses (combined local authorities) to using the powers in the 2023 Procurement Act to exclude non-treaty states (who are increasing their market share substantially) or strengthening existing procurement powers to further support our manufacturers retaining and expanding their market share in the context of rapid expansion of Chinese market share since 2023.

We believe that all three of these are achievable policy outcomes, with the third being akin to what other European and North American states carry out. As noted previously, the consequences of allowing Alexander Dennis to close in Falkirk would be utterly devastating. The two largest private industries in the area, the Grangemouth oil refinery, and Alexander Dennis, closing within months of each other takes hundreds of jobs, and thousands more out

**Euan Stainbank MP**

**Member of Parliament for Falkirk**

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of the supply chain. The cost in years to come will be far greater than acting now, at the earliest possible stage.

Yours sincerely,

Euan Stainbank MP, Member of Parliament for Falkirk

Brian Leishman Member of Parliament for Alloa and Grangemouth

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