



# HOUSE OF COMMONS

14 June 2017

Mr Tony Lavelle  
Chelsfield Grange  
Rushmore Hill  
Pratts Bottom BR6 7LZ

*Dear Mr Lavelle,*

I am writing to update you regarding the decision by Arriva to cancel the 402 bus service between Pratts Bottom and Bromley. I am grateful to you for the efforts you have made on behalf of your community to ensure that these proposals have been brought to the attention of decision-makers.

I enclose a copy of correspondence dated 10 May 2017 from Simon Loh, Area Managing Director at Arriva Southern Counties, which completely negates his earlier correspondence dated 6 March 2017, in which he indicated that the future of the 402 bus service was secure. Please accept my apologies for the delay in forwarding this letter, which was caught up in the time of the election campaign.

In the meantime, Arriva's decision has been followed up further by David Bond, Transport Planning and Traffic Engineering Manager at Bromley Council. Mr Bond raised Arriva's decision regarding the 402 with Transport for London, and asked if they might consider covering the route. He understands that TfL's views is that on the sections where TfL services parallel the 402 (mainly the 358 from Green Street Green into Bromley) these services will be able to accommodate the extra demand from the 402. TfL understand that the numbers making the trips into Bromley from areas currently only served by the 402 is relatively small; therefore they would struggle to make a business case to support its continuation. Therefore, TfL is not proposing any intervention in response to the withdrawal.

Mr Bond has subsequently had an opportunity to look at the usage data from TfL, which reveals that approximately 69% of the cross-boundary journeys are made between Bromley town centre and Sevenoaks Bus Station. These trips can, alternatively, be made by train, although those residents who qualify for a Freedom Pass will not have the same level of concession available for rail journeys. Although just over 44% of all trips on the service were made within the Borough, these can be made by alternative bus services.

**Jo Johnson MP**

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Mr Bond has sent me the timetable for the new Kent County Council supported bus service, numbered 431, which will operate between Sevenoaks and Orpington. By way of connection with Service 358 (between Orpington and Green Street Green), this will enable a limited bus service facility between Bromley and Sevenoaks; I enclose a copy here.

Thank you again for your engagement with this issue and I trust that this response is helpful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ATA'.