

South West Resilience Campaign

Dear Colleague

We urgently need your help to persuade the Government to commit vital and long overdue investments in the South West Peninsula's transport network in this year's Autumn Statement.

Reliable roads and railways are a vital part of everyday life. They are vital to the economy and our essential services. But in the South West Peninsula, we've experienced appalling disruption to our connectivity with the rest of the UK through extreme weather.

At times, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset's strategic road and rail links with the UK were severed; the M5 and A303 flooded, whilst the loss of the sea wall at Dawlish, flooding and landslips along our main rail lines left many passengers delayed at best, and stranded on occasion.

This has exposed the fragility of the South West Peninsula's strategic transport links brought on by decades of under-investment by successive Governments.

The impact on our transport networks has been unlike anything encountered in modern times, but it isn't a one-off. The Environment Agency and the Met Office warn that extreme weather will affect the South West Peninsula with increasing regularity in the future. These events will pass, but the chaos they leave behind may take months to put right.

We need to prepare now and make sure the South West Peninsula keeps moving in the future so that essential services can function, the economy can grow, people can get on with their lives and visitors can continue to enjoy all that the South West has to offer.

As a result, a partnership of South West local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships, supported by the bodies such as CBI, has come together to campaign to Government to improve our resilience and encourage economic growth.

The campaign is calling on the Government to invest in four key actions:

- Improvements to the A303/ A30/ A358 to create a reliable second strategic road link from London to the South West Peninsula
- A resilient and reliable railway for the South West Peninsula
- Faster rail journey times and better connections
- Sufficient capacity and quality of our trains to meet demand

We know that many businesses and communities are experiencing problems. We need your help to put the strongest case to Government in advance of the Autumn Statement this year.

Ministers need to hear from you, your members, employees, friends and colleagues about why the Government should back our campaign.

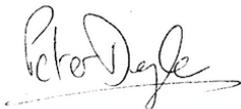
If you are willing to write to the Government directly (and copy us in) that will have a powerful effect on Ministers. The more of us who let Ministers know we need them to act now the stronger our voice in Whitehall becomes. Copying us in helps us to keep track of how the campaign is progressing and encourage others to get involved.

Below you will find addresses for Patrick McLoughlin, the Secretary of State for Transport, and George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Secretary of State will determine his department's transport priorities for the future, the Chancellor will decide how much money those priorities will get, so it's important that both hear your views.

If you would prefer just to let us know about the problems you experience – and the benefits that improved connectivity could bring, we would also be very grateful. These comments can be used as part of the overall campaign business case. This can be done either by emailing us at info@resiliencesouthwest.co.uk or alternatively by filling the form on our website www.resiliencesouthwest.co.uk.

On behalf of the partnership for South West Resilience, we would like to thank you in advance for your help and support. More information is available on our website: www.resiliencesouthwest.co.uk.

Yours sincerely



Peter Doyle
Head of External Affairs
Devon County Council



Liz Waugh
Coast Communications

On behalf of:
The Peninsula Rail Task Force
Devon and Somerset Local Transport Board
Cornwall Council
Devon County Council
Plymouth City Council
Somerset County Council
Torbay Council
Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership
Devon and Cornwall Business Council

Letters of support should be addressed to:

Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP,
Secretary of State for Transport,
Department for Transport,
Great Minster House,
76 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DR
patrick.mcloughlin@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Rt Hon George Osborne MP,
Chancellor of the Exchequer,
HM Treasury,
1 Horse Guards Road,
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private.office@hmtreasury.gsi.gov.uk

Copied to

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