The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Our Ref: AL16123   28 June 2023

Dear Jeremy,

A Fair Deal for Volunteers – Adjusting the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment Rate (AMAP)

As you will know, Community Transport Volunteers across this country play a significant role in helping the most vulnerable in our society access essential services and facilities that they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives. We owe these people a debt of gratitude not only for their display of kindness daily, but also for their contribution to the UK economy, estimated at over £2bn every year.

However, because of the continued cost of living crisis and the increases in fuel and energy prices, Community Transport Volunteers now need our help more than ever. As the Community Transport Association points out, the cost of motoring has increased by 41.8% between 2012 and April 2023, and yet, as you know, the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment Rate (AMAP) has remained the same since 2012.

The result of this unchanged AMAP rate is that volunteers are being left out of pocket despite the positive work that they do, and the sector is facing decline. Already, 65% of Community Transport operators report lower levels of volunteer recruitment and retention due to soaring fuel costs and the unresponsive AMAP rate, and as a result 32% of operators have had to cut services and 65% have had to raise fares. It is imperative that this trend does not continue.

I am therefore asking you as the Chancellor of the Exchequer to commit to an immediate review of the AMAP rate, to ensure that Community Transport Volunteers are not left out of pocket for the inspiring and caring work that they do for vulnerable individuals up and down the country everyday.

Thank you in anticipation and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Lewer MBE MP