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for Transport

Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP  
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From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt Hon Grant Shapps**

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Dear Liam,

Thank you for your letter of 24 May regarding the funding of the MetroWest Phase 1b scheme to restore railway services between Bristol and Portishead. I apologise for the delay in my response.

I know that the Portishead scheme has the ability to bring the communities of Bristol and Portishead closer together and address some of the Government's key priorities, from levelling up the economy to supporting jobs, growth and decarbonisation. It also addresses the congestion issue on the A369 which results in lengthy journeys.

I am pleased to say that my Department is committing to contribute additional funding of £15.58 million to close the scheme's funding gap, to come from the Restoring Your Railway fund. This funding is conditional on formal commitments being made by North Somerset Council and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to increase their funding to the scheme by £10 million each. The Rail Minister, Wendy Morton MP, has written to the leaders of North Somerset Council and WECA to confirm this.

The funding will support the development of the scheme's Full Business Case, which we look forward to receiving in Autumn 2023.

Yours ever,

**Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**