



Department for
Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

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OUR REF: RK/TH/023019/07
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Dear John

3:0 OCT 2007

Thank you for your letter dated 5 October 2007 enclosing correspondence from your constituent Mr Lex Comber of 57 Church Drive, Carrington, about Midland Mainline's (MML's) Cycle Policy on trains.

As Minister with responsibility for both rail and cycling I am well placed to see the benefits that cycle and rail journeys can bring, they certainly enable cycling to form part of a longer journey.

The department has long recognised the value of cycle and rail journeys and we will continue to encourage all Train Operating Companies (TOCs) to provide facilities at stations which will help facilitate cycle and rail journeys. We will also encourage TOCs to carry cycles on trains where possible in line with the Cycling Policy document published by the former Strategic Rail Authority in 2004 which states that TOCs should facilitate the carriage of cycles on off-peak services and promote the carriage of compact folding cycles at all times. However, during the peak where capacity is under pressure, there may be circumstances in which it is in the interests of the majority of passengers not to permit non-folding cycles on board.

MML permit cycles to be carried aboard all its services, but reservations for non-folding cycles are required due to space constraints. Folding cycles are permitted on all its services.

I hope this is helpful.

Best wishes


TOM HARRIS