



Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Rd
London SW1P 2AA
By email

21st March 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you today to urge you take the necessary steps to end the continuing uncertainty by guaranteeing that rail manufacturing will continue at the Alstom factory in Derby, historic, present and future heart of rail manufacturing in this country.

Not only is it vital for levelling up that we should be investing in manufacturing and skills across the UK, but it is also essential to remember that the benefits of a strong, consistent rail manufacturing sector are felt right across the country. This is demonstrated by the excellent news that Piccadilly Line trains for London will be made by Siemens in Goole rather than abroad. Similarly, as well as the three thousand jobs at risk in Derby, up to fifteen thousand more jobs across the country are linked in the supply chain. The direct impact on lives and communities would be devastating, at an already deeply challenging time for many people.

What would this say to the nation and to the world about our railways? What message would it send if Derby, at the heart of rolling stock production from locomotives in the 1850s to Intercity 125s and amazing Elizabeth Line stock in recent years, the city chosen to be the HQ of Great British Railways, saw its finest factory cease operations in 2024?

You have been a strong and passionate exponent of growth on our network, supporting and celebrating Restoring Your Railways, with stations and lines reopening across the country from Dartmoor to Northumberland and many more to come. But these lines need trains, the industry needs certainty and, with the climate emergency *the* issue of our time, long term clarity and investment in public transport must be an immediate priority, not a last-ditch afterthought.

We therefore urge you without delay to guarantee that rail manufacturing at the Alstom factory in Derby will be saved for the long term and commit to developing a strategy for the consistent rolling stock pipeline that the industry, the public and the planet so urgently needs.

We look forward to hearing from you and can provide more information as required.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Tuohy, CEO, Campaign for Better Transport