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Our Ref: MD/PS/040416  
G Cox MP

Your Ref:  
Please ask for: Mr. Stevens  
Ext: 202

4 April, 2016

Mr Geoffrey Cox MP  
Constituency Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Lockyer House  
Paddons Row  
Tavistock  
PL19 0HF

Dear Geoffrey,

**Ref: Letter from Caroline Oxenham, Brentor Parish Clerk**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the concerns raised by Brentor Parish Council regarding our service 46 and the changes we have recently made to it.

To give you some background, Plymouth Citybus have operated the service between Tavistock and Okehampton since May 2014 on a contract awarded by Devon County Council. When it was awarded to Plymouth Citybus we offered through and additional journeys from Okehampton into Plymouth commercially to enhance the tendered timetable.

In September 2015 the Sunday service was withdrawn as part of the Devon County Council's budget reduction.

Then in September 2015; Stagecoach Devon commenced a new enhanced operation on the Plymouth to Tavistock section of the route, this has seriously affected the financial viability of what was already a weak service.

With the aim of securing as much of the timetable as possible we worked in conjunction with officers at Devon County Council to review the service. It was clear that the additional commercial journeys were causing the greatest financial loss. We have managed to largely maintain service levels between Tavistock and Okehampton. However, the number of journeys operating through, to or from Plymouth has been reduced.