

25 APR 2016



Head of Services for Communities

Geoffrey Cox QC MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

John Smith
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QD
Tel: 01392 383201
Email: john.smith@devon.gov.uk
Fax: 01392 382279

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Your ref: GC/ac
Our Ref: PT4559996

Dear Mr Cox

Bus Service: Brentor

Thank you for your letter of 31 March, together with the letter from Brentor Parish Council regarding Bus Services in Brentor.

Plymouth Citybus have operated the service between Plymouth, Tavistock and Okehampton since May 2014 (starting at Service 11, renumbered 46 in May 2015). The arrangement takes the form of a Devon County Council-contracted extension to Okehampton of the company's commercial operations between Plymouth and Tavistock. They are providing a greater level of service than the Council had originally specified.

Citybus made a number of changes after Easter 2016. This reflected their reduction in commercial provision between Plymouth and Tavistock and the knock on effect on journeys north of Tavistock and was not brought about by any budgetary or other changes by the County Council.

Although the changes involved some reductions, overall the service continues to offer an improved service compared to the original County Council tender specification. Brentor still has seven buses a day – no fewer than the service which existed prior to Citybus taking over in 2014. Based on our sample surveys on the small number of buses being withdrawn, at most only one or two passengers a day to or from Brentor would be affected.

The size of bus is determined by the highest demand each one has to cater for at some point during its day's duty, hence the use of a double decker on some journeys. Unfortunately a double-deck is not able to run via Brentor due to the low railway bridge further along the route at Lydford.

Textphone 0845 1551020 SMS Text 0777 3333 231
www.devon.gov.uk

Heather Barnes – Strategic Director Place