[INSERT DAY + MONTH] 2022

**[INSERT NAME] MP**

**House of Commons**

**London**

**SW1A 0AA**

Dear [INSERT NAME],

I am writing on behalf of [INSERT ORGANISATION] and as a member of the Community Transport Association (CTA) to ask you to call on the UK Government to take immediate action to relieve the pressures of rising fuel prices on Community Transport operators and their volunteers.

CTA represents thousands of Community Transport operators in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who operate a diverse range of transport schemes in urban, rural and island communities with a focus on accessibility, inclusivity and sustainability.

Community Transport is always for a social purpose and never for a profit. Our sector is all about community-led solutions to local transport needs. Many schemes, including ours, rely on volunteer drivers to help connect local people and communities.

[INSERT ORGANISATION] in [INSERT LOCATION/MP CONSTITUENCY] is [EXPLAIN HERE WHAT YOUR ORGANISATION IS AND DOES. BRING TO LIFE YOUR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT TOO WITH ANY DATA AND EVIDENCE YOU HAVE].

CTA is calling for an immediate review[[1]](#footnote-1) of the approved mileage rate that can be claimed by volunteer drivers owing to its growing impact on volunteer recruitment and retention. Although the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rate is primarily aimed at employees driving on company business, it is also used to reimburse volunteers using their own cars in providing journeys through volunteer car schemes, like [INSERT ORGANISATION].

We strongly support CTA’s call for an immediate review. The current rate was established in 2012 at 45p per mile. According to the RAC Foundation, [[2]](#footnote-2)the cost of motoring had already increased by more than 25% since 2012 before the fuel cost increases because of the invasion of Ukraine. Today’s economic and geopolitical context is likely to mean significantly higher fuel prices are the ‘new normal’ for the foreseeable future, which will negatively impact us and other Community Transport schemes across the UK.

[EXPLAIN HERE THE IMPACT OF IMPACT OF HIGHER FUEL PRICES ON YOUR SCHEME – HOW DOES IT IMPACT YOUR USERS? DOES IT THREATEN TO MAKE SERVICES LESS AFFORDABLE OR VIABLE? WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE OUTCOMES YOU SEEK TO DELIVER?]

The current AMAP rate has significantly diminished in value in recent weeks and months and, as a result, is disincentivising volunteering. [EXPLAIN HERE THE IMPACT OF CURRENT AMAP ON YOUR ABILITY TO RETAIN AND RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS]

We believe that there needs to be an urgent inflationary uplift to the current AMAP rate. We recognise that what may be required is a short-term fix, given the likely growth in use of electric vehicles, which requires a more fundamental reassessment of how to fairly reimburse volunteers at the same time as decarbonising our transport system. However, we need the UK Government to act now in the midst of the cost of living crisis to safeguard the future of our scheme and of the Community Transport sector as a whole.

We hope that you will support our call for an immediate review of the AMAP. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue further and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

**[INSERT NAME]**

**[INSERT POSITION]**

**[INSERT ORGANISATION]**

**[INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION]**

1. <https://ctauk.org/cta-statement-of-amap-rates-and-volunteers/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.racfoundation.org/data/cost-of-transport-index> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)