

DEREK THOMAS MP

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Dear Tony

I regret having to send you this letter but it is necessary. With immediate effect I am removing you from the Local Transport Board.

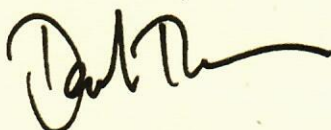
I doubt that this will come as a surprise to you following your recent letter to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Transport Minister.

The Department for Transport has consistently stressed the importance of the Isles of Scilly speaking with 'one voice' in setting out its case in relation to vessel and infrastructure needs to Government and that message has been clearly understood by the members of the Local Transport Board. Under my chairmanship, I have endeavoured to ensure the board considers a wide range of issues, views and options before reaching a consensus, and this has included providing the opportunity for you and your technical advisor Bill Davidson to present alternative proposals for the sea link service.

Having had the opportunity to put forward your proposals for consideration and been involved in all discussions at the board, it is disappointing that you are not now prepared to support the bid which has been approved by both the Transport Board and the Council of the Isles of Scilly and instead, continue to promote your alternative proposals.

It is vital that members of the Local Transport Board can feel free and able to continue to engage in robust and honest debate and conversation and it is my judgment that, should you remain on the board, this will no longer be possible. I am personally saddened by this because I have always listened to what you have to say and incorporated your ideas where possible.

Yours sincerely



Derek Thomas MP
For West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (St Ives)

