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BY EMAIL

Cllr Wayne Briggs, Portfolio Holder for Children & Families, Education and SEND
Cllr Stephen Shaw, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Warwickshire County Council

22nd September 2026

Our ref: MP15596

Dear Cllr Briggs and Cllr Shaw,

Re: Failures with school transport arrangements

I am writing to register my concern at Warwickshire County Council's failures in connection with school transport arrangements.

I am receiving an unprecedented number of complaints from constituents in relation to school transport. The issues raised range from the sudden cancellation of existing and longstanding arrangements to lack of capacity on existing school bus routes, and the considerable backlog in processing school transport applications.

As you are aware, every child of compulsory school age qualifies for free school transport if they go to their nearest suitable school and any of the following apply:

- the school is more than 2 miles away and the child is under 8
- the school is more than 3 miles away and the child is 8 or over
- there's no safe walking route between their home and school
- they cannot walk there because of their special educational needs or disabilities or a mobility problem

The new school year is upon us and yet a number of my constituents are telling me that Warwickshire County Council is failing to provide the necessary school transport for their children, leaving parents having to find, and fund, ways to transport their children to and from school. For parents of SEND children, the time and cost of transporting their children to the nearest suitable school can be excessive; some are losing paid employment in order to facilitate this.

This is an unacceptable situation. Warwickshire County Council has had ample time to prepare and plan for the new school year.

Please explain why these problems have arisen and why adequate resources were not allocated to ensure that school transport is arranged in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely



Dr Manuela Perteghella MP
Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon

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