

REP-06

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To: nltwao@northumberland.gov.uk; TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE

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Subject: Northumberland County Council - Northumberland Line

Inquiry Chair / The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Secretary of State for Transport

Dear Minister

I wish you a speedy recovery from your recent cycling accident.

Ashington - Newcastle upon Tyne railway inquiry

This route and its reinstatement in addition to others closed by the Beeching report cuts is essential for the recovery of the north of England region as would the reopening of railway stations at Killingworth and Forest Hall in North Tyneside and Milnthorpe, Kirkby Lonsdale, Tebay, Sedbergh, Keswick upon Derwentwater, etc, etc in Cumbria.

I would like to suggest that the Ashington - Newcastle line is extended beyond Ashington with additional stations at Queen Elizabeth II Park / Woodhorn Mining Museum and Newbiggin by the Sea; the original terminus of the line and whose rejuvenation would be substantially enhanced by being reconnected to the rail network.

This would reduce congestion and air pollution as well as further boosting tourism and economic growth without the need for a private car in Northumberland.

The entire northern region would benefit from a devolved regional parliament and government with at least the same powers and levels of funding as Scotland with our existing MPs as our regional representatives and in future elected via proportional representation.

Yours sincerely
Simon Burdis
Northern England