



transportLongsight  
MERCi  
22a Beswick Street  
Manchester  
M4 7HR

**email** [info@transportlongsight.org.uk](mailto:info@transportlongsight.org.uk)  
**internet** [www.transportlongsight.org.uk](http://www.transportlongsight.org.uk)  
**phone** 0161 273 1736  
30th October 2006

Dear Gerald Kaufman MP,

We are writing as concerned local residents and representatives of the Longsight Transport Project. As you will recall, in autumn 2003 the Transport Project launched the results of its community consultation on getting around, with your support. For your information, I enclose our most recent project update.

The reason for our letter is that we want to draw your attention to a recent survey that we have carried out to assess the quality of service on the 53 bus route, an issue that was raised in the consultation. Since First, the operator running the service, announced a Punctuality Improvement Partnership in January this year, we decided to encourage passengers to record the quality of their routes. To do this, we printed postcards in English, Urdu and Bengali, which could be filled in at the end of each journey and returned to us via free post. We also recorded interviews for our radio show, On The Move, which is broadcast on ALL FM, to bring to life some of the concerns of users. This recording is enclosed on a CD. I hope that this CD and the printed summary of the findings of the survey, show clearly that there is still much to be done to improve the quality of service on this route and that this is of concern for residents of Longsight.

We are bringing this to your attention because we believe it adds to the growing evidence of the need for organisations such as GMPTE to be given stronger regulatory powers to control the quality of bus services. We also enclose the response that we wrote to the Transport Committee's enquiry on bus service provision in May this year and a recent letter published in the Manchester Evening News, in which we and others argue that if a regulated and franchised system is good enough for London, then it is good enough for Manchester too. A survey last year found that a majority of Labour MPs are in agreement.

We would ask that you please take these concerns on board and raise them at a national Government level. We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue.

In keeping with our policy on community involvement, this letter will be placed on our Internet site [www.transportlongsight.org.uk](http://www.transportlongsight.org.uk) so that others can see what issues are being raised in their area.

Yours Faithfully

Geoff Hammond  
Phil Hardy  
James Meehan  
Kirsty Ogle  
Graeme Sherriff  
Elanor Tierney  
(Longsight Transport Project)