

# Ensignbus

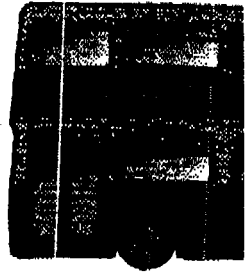
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26<sup>th</sup> August 2004

Dear Mr Davey,

**Re: Proposed acquisition of Sovereign Bus and Coach Ltd by Arriva PLC**

Thank you for your letter regarding the above, and whilst we are not directly involved in operating buses within that area, we do not compete with Arriva in parts of Kent.

If an operator wishes to start a service, either in direct competition or by an alternative route, then there are no legal barriers to stop this happening.

Local bus services may be dominated by one of the large companies like Arriva, but if the independent offers a service that is significantly different in routing then they have a good chance of success, as long as the service is reliable.

On this basis we cannot see any reason why the proposed acquisition by Arriva PLC should not go ahead, as it will not impede any of the existing operators and will probably improve services in the area for passengers.

We trust the above will be of interest.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Newman  
CHAIRMAN