



Chris White  
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Mike Davey  
Inquiry Co-ordinator  
Victoria House  
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London WC1B 4AD

Your ref: TPL/01

23 August 2004

Dear Mr Davey

**Anticipated Acquisition by Arriva plc of operations of Sovereign Bus and Coach Company Ltd**

I have thought about this issue carefully. The problems for users are principally price and timetabling.

On price, I am content that the competition from other means of transport will be a sufficient incentive for prices to remain reasonably stable.

On timetabling, experience locally has shown that it is the existence rather than the absence of competition which has caused problems for local residents. Moreover, the County Council can and does provide subsidies for desirable but uneconomic routes and so provides a safety net should a monopoly or near monopoly provider decide to curtail its commercial services.

On balance therefore I would welcome more consolidation and less competition.

Yours sincerely

Chris White