



Peter Nathanail <peter@transportmadesimple.co.uk>

Request for support due to excessive fuel costs

Peter Nathanail <peter@transportmadesimple.co.uk>
To: Helen Morris - Head of IPTU <Helen.Morris@essex.gov.uk>

Fri, Mar 27, 2026 at 8:00 AM

Good morning Helen,

I hope that you are well. I am writing to you today to request consideration for urgent support for transport operators delivering contracts on behalf of Essex County Council, due to the unprecedented increases in fuel costs we are currently experiencing. This is affecting both our home to school transport and local bus service contracts.

To give you some context, for our budgeting purposes, we typically assume that diesel will cost between £1.10 and £1.20 per litre (excluding VAT). We are now being quoted a typical rate of £1.67 per litre (excluding VAT), meaning we face a 47p per litre (39%) increase in our fuel costs, which we simply cannot sustain. For context, we purchase [REDACTED] litres of diesel every week, meaning that we are experiencing unbudgeted weekly cash burn in the region of [REDACTED]. Although we are a medium sized business, we simply cannot sustain this, especially because we are also unable to increase many of our ticket prices on our local bus services, even temporarily, due to the £3 bus fare cap.

I am, therefore, writing to request your urgent support in the form of a fuel price escalator payment, to support us during these particularly challenging economic times. Clearly, we have no desire to make excess profits from the awful events happening overseas, and seek only a contribution towards our unexpected increase in fuel costs. We believe that a temporary increase to quoted contract rates of 5% would be appropriate, in recognition of the fact that fuel prices have increased by 39%, and fuel represents approximately 15% of our overall operating costs.

Without the requested support, the ongoing viability of our business is at risk, and I know that many other small transport businesses will be in a similar, if not even worse, position to ourselves.

Kind regards,

Peter

Peter Nathanail
Managing Director



peter@transportmadesimple.co.uk



transportmadesimple.co.uk

You may have noticed that some of our email addresses and signatures have changed. This is part of a restructure of our business and more information can be found by [clicking here](#).

Transport Made Simple Limited
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