

Councillor Howard Sykes

Our ref: 8000045846

c/o [Kay.Earnshaw@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Kay.Earnshaw@oldham.gov.uk)

12 August 2016

Dear Councillor Sykes

**RE: Changes to Bus Service 181**

Thank you for your email on behalf of your constituents in relation to the proposed changes to the 181 bus service.

As you may be aware, bus service 181 is operated on a fully commercial basis by First Manchester, who made the decision to re-route the service as part of their July 2016 network changes. As the law stands, operators of commercial services are free to change their bus services as they see fit.

Due to the concerns you have raised, officers from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) contacted First Manchester to better understand why they have reached this decision. In their reply, First Manchester has confirmed the decision was made due to low passenger use along different sections of the route. The bus operator has also advised that usage on bus services 24 and 182 (which serve along St. Mary's Road) are much greater than those on service 181 (which serves Broadway and Oldham Road). As a consequence, they made the decision to re-route service 181 to operate via St. Mary's Road.

First Manchester acknowledges that as a consequence of this change, a pair of stops on Broadway will be left without a bus service, with the nearest bus stop available on Nuthurst Road, which is less than half a mile away (643 metres).

First Manchester has suggested a number of alternatives are available to passengers. The route previously taken by service 181 is partially covered by the high frequency services 83, 180 and 184. In addition, passengers wishing to interchange between services 24, 181, and 182 (including those for John Henry Newman's College) and services 83, 180 and 184 (including those for Failsworth), they may do so at Dean Lane; however, this may lead to longer journey times.

First Manchester has also suggested that for those passengers who will lose the direct link with Morrison's supermarket, services 24, 181 and 182 are available to them which serve other supermarkets including ASDA at Chadderton.

In response to the impact of this change, TfGM has considered whether existing subsidised bus services could be diverted along Broadway. Unfortunately, none of the supported services in the local area have sufficient time in their schedules to accommodate this change, without taking a service away from another route.

I trust the above information is useful and if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Customer Services Manager, Sean Dyball at [Sean.Dyball@tfgm.com](mailto:Sean.Dyball@tfgm.com).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Roberts', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Nick Roberts**  
**Head of Commercial Development (Bus)**