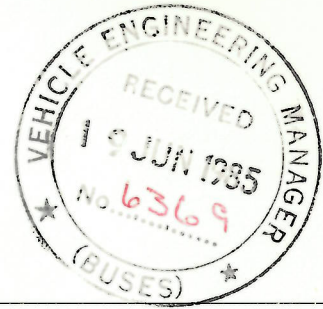


To **VEHICLE ENGINEERING MANAGER, CHISWICK**
 From **HEAD OF UNIT FOR DISABLED PASSENGERS**
 Our reference **843/AGS**
 Your reference **39791/3176**
 Telephone
 Date **17 June 1985**



"SPLIT-ENTRANCE" ETC. ON DOUBLE-DECK BUSES

I would like to thank you and Derek Hunter for demonstrating the modified DM at the Mobility Roadshow last Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The bus produced quite a lot of interest in our efforts to help elderly and handicapped passengers and the entrance/exit steps were highly commended by Mrs. Chalker and the other VIPs who you "took for a ride" on Thursday as well as visitors on the other two days. The additional and thicker handrails were also welcomed, but their green colour and the continued use of longitudinal seats over the nearside front wheel arch were questioned.

As soon as you are ready, I would like to make the bus available for one or two days at Chiswick or some other suitable location where disabled people can try it in realistic conditions. I am particularly anxious to obtain views on the green handrails before we are committed to its use on the 260 buses in 1986 order, to avoid possible complaints from the partially-sighted passengers we are trying to help.

If - at least for 1986 - we cannot solve the longitudinal seat problem the best solution may be to designate the first off-side seats behind the stairs as also for use by elderly and disabled passengers. As Ogle discovered, this was where they chose on the mock-up tests.

I would also like to discuss with you at an early date the details of the features to be incorporated on the 260 buses, such as bell-push positions and colours.

Alshaw

Copy to: J. Telford Beasley; M.T. Smith; D.H. Keeler; T.J. Lowe;
Miss J. Beedham

AGS/M45:1