

February 12th 2020

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson, MP
Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

As you are aware, I co-founded Motability, (an independent charity) with the late Lord Goodman in 1977 to provide mobility for disabled people. We cover the whole of the United Kingdom and we have some 620,000 vehicles on the road and nearing the end of PIP (Personal Independence Payments) transition the numbers are now rising with many of the new entrants to the Scheme having mental disabilities and therefore require much greater support.

For some thirty years we have also provided vehicles for our Veterans when we took over the responsibility from BLESMA – we also have a division that supplies some 17,000 powered wheelchairs and scooters to users.

Since its foundation we have put some five million vehicles on the road and the present value of our fleet is close to 8 billion pounds sterling and we are over 10 per cent of the British market.

You will see from the information I have sent you that the Prime Minister of the day has always been prepared to be our Senior Patron. Jim Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher were very ready to accept my request that this new independent charity would enjoy all-party support. Indeed, even when I became a Senior Adviser in Margaret's Government for some eight years we never experienced any partisan problems. May I add that over the years we have enjoyed an excellent relationship with what was then the Department of Health under the late David Ennals and now, of course, the DWP.

We would be delighted, Prime Minister, if you would kindly agree to be our Senior Patron and, also, if, as I hope, your reply is favourable we would wish to arrange a handover of a new vehicle to one of your constituents in your Constituency. You have 618 and may I point out that in the analysis we have done over many decades, when a disabled person is a member of a family who have never had a vehicle of their own, we found that on average some 10 family and friends are helping with that disabled person's mobility. Therefore, in your Constituency, some 6,000 would come into that category. Delivery of a vehicle helps to put them all ***"on the road to freedom"***.

Her Majesty the Queen has been a very active and helpful Patron over the years and kindly hosted a very major event at Windsor Castle on Friday 7th April 2017 to celebrate the handover of the 4 millionth vehicle and the Fortieth Anniversary of the announcement of the foundation of Motability in the House of Commons on 6th December 1977.

The heads of our major banks, car manufacturers, insurance companies and many hundreds of those who have played and continue to play a crucial part in our endeavours, coming from all over the UK. In my personal view many are unsung heroes! everybody involved has great empathy for the cause to help to enhance the lives of disabled people and their families.

As you will see in the Annual Report we are substantially expanding our endeavours and are helping the DWP on a wider front.

We would also, suggest as in the past a handover in front of No 10 which could include both electric and hybrid vehicles. Finally, we intend to do a handover of one of the large vehicles we are providing to families who are helped by The Family Fund and sadly have babies who are unlikely to survive their early years

I look forward
to your reply
With warm regards
Jeffrey

Cc: Sam Richards: 10 Downing Street

Cc: Barry Le Grys: Chief Executive Officer, Motability