

Apology to John Malyckyj

Following the publication of our most recent newsletter (95), we were contacted by John Malyckyj about an item included in it, which referred to a letter he had written to the Bristol Post.

We have apologised to John for the suggestion that he was anything but impartial in his previous professional role as an officer for the West of England councils. We have no reason to doubt his impartiality in his work and any suggestion otherwise was both wrong and unfair. On a personal level FOSBR committee members found him very helpful.

While we disagree with the views John expressed in his letter, FOSBR agrees that he is entitled to them. Committee members have said that his letter should challenge us to consider the views he expressed, which we recognise are shared by many others.

The FOSBR newsletter article resulted from concerns that the arguments in John's letter may reflect a more general cynicism within the West of England's authorities and organisations about public transport, and rail in particular. This widespread concern needs to be tackled and the FOSBR article was an attempt to do so. FOSBR hope that there can be a sensible discussion about this, which is linked to making the case for rail and public transport.