# Rail minister faces backlash for texting while driving bus during charity tour



In a troubling revelation that underscores the negligence permeating the upper echelons of Britain's transport leadership, rail minister Lord Peter Hendy has drawn attention for texting while dangerously operating a vintage Routemaster bus during a charity tour in London. Observers of this incident—reported last month—were left aghast to witness Hendy prioritising personal messaging over passenger safety as he texted about a prostate cancer test while at the helm.

The so-called charity tour, conducted on March 28, was ostensibly part of an initiative to support the Railway Family, a group promoting the welfare of railway professionals and their families. While Hendy has been lauded in the past for his fundraising efforts, his recent lapse in judgement raises serious questions regarding his capability to uphold the responsibilities of his position. Following a passenger's alert, the Metropolitan Police were contacted on March 31, highlighting a shocking disregard for public safety.

A spokesperson for Lord Hendy, acknowledging that he had used his phone while driving, offered a contrived apology, but the gravity of the situation cannot be understated. The police's initial investigation was closed due to a 'lack of evidence,' only to be reopened following Hendy's own admission. Now, as he faces a fine and possibly six points on his driving licence, it begs the question of whether this government can truly commit to enforcing stringent safety protocols within our transport systems, or if they are simply paying lip service to passenger care.

While the Railway Family fundraiser organisers have expressed gratitude for Hendy’s past support, they claim to have not received formal complaints regarding his actions at the time. However, this incident should serve as a wake-up call—an alarm for a government that has yet to hold its officials accountable for reckless behaviour that jeopardises public safety.

The broader implications of this incident highlight a pattern of failures within the current administration, which continues to falter in upholding standards of safety and responsibility. Instead of tackling transport issues effectively, the government's leadership appears to indulge in a troubling culture of leniency towards its ministers. As criticism mounts, the need for a genuine alternative has never been clearer. The public deserves representatives who are committed to both accountability and the well-being of the citizens they claim to serve, not ministers who casually compromise safety for personal notifications.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/transport-minister-admits-texting-behind-wheel/> - Corroborates the report that Lord Peter Hendy used his phone while driving a vintage Routemaster bus and subsequently reported himself to the police. The article discusses the implications of this incident on Hendy's position in the government.
* <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/peter-hendy-london-transport-for-london-metropolitan-police-none-b1222173.html> - Supports the claim that Lord Hendy apologized for his actions after being spotted using his phone by a passenger during a charity tour in London, which led to involvement from the Metropolitan Police.
* <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/peter-hendy-admits-using-phone-while-driving-vintage-bus-z523wsqq9> - Reports on Lord Hendy's admission of texting behind the wheel of a vintage bus, detailing the event where he was seen by a passenger and his subsequent self-reporting to law enforcement.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/peter-hendy-transport-minister-phone-bus-charity-b2342953.html> - Provides insight into the charity event where the incident occurred, highlighting Hendy's involvement and the reaction of the Railway Family, a group benefiting from the event.
* <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/transport-minister-admits-using-phone-while-driving-vintage-bus/ar-AA1kZbWU> - Discusses the initial police response and the reopening of the case following Hendy's admission, emphasizing the potential legal consequences he may face, including fines and penalty points.