



CRISPIN BLUNT MP
Member of Parliament for Reigate

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Our reference: CB/AH

3rd March 2015

Dear Patrick,

Further to my letter of 16th February, I am writing again to seek your urgent attention to a resolution for commuters in my constituency, faced with reduced services and disruption during the works at London Bridge station until 2018.

As I mentioned in my letter of 16th February, I shall be attending the AGM of the Redhill and Reigate Rail Users next week on 12th March. I should like to present a credible solution to that meeting, or else I shall be recommending a campaign of direct action, including possibly strike action by rail users, to protest against inaction on giving commuters a fair deal.

As a suggested solution, I should like to draw your attention to the provision for the 'extension of zonal fares' in the Govia Thameslink franchise, agreed last year:

11.2 The Franchise shall use reasonable endeavours to extend Oyster PAYG to those areas bounded by and including the Stations located at Epsom, Gatwick Airport, Luton Airport Parkway, Welwyn Garden City and Hertford North by 30 September 2015 provided that the Franchisee and the Secretary of State agree that the terms of such introduction are not detrimental to the overall commercial position of the Franchise.

I have written to Charles Horton, Chief Executive of Govia Thameslink Railway, asking what plans there are for zoning of stations out to Gatwick Airport, and I would insist that the extension of zonal fares is implemented as soon as practical. In particular, I would appreciate an early announcement by Ministers that it is the Government's intention to implement this provision by September 2015 and that Redhill, Reigate, Merstham, Earlswood and Salfords

shall be zoned as zone 6, at least until the works at London Bridge are completed, with a reappraisal of zoning thereafter in 2018.

I look forward to hearing from you soon on this important matter.

*Tom
Crisp
Crispin*

Crispin Blunt

Cc:

Sir Peter Hendy CBE, Commissioner of Transport for London (TfL)
Charles Horton, Chief Executive Officer, Govia Thameslink Railway
Claire Perry, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport

Enc. Letter from Crispin Blunt MP to Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Secretary of State for Transport, 16th February 2015