



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/TB

20 January 2015

Dear Patrick,

Thank you for meeting me at the Department for Transport this afternoon to discuss rail issues affecting my commuters in my constituency, and for agreeing to respond so promptly.

To assist you and your officials with your analysis, I reiterate the central points that I presented to you at our meeting today:

- Network Rail's Schedule 4 compensation payments are paid to TOCs by Network Rail because of planned disruption. Do these now reflect the next four years of service reduction, and will you require Southern Rail, and from July Go-Via, to pass these on to Southern and Go-Via passengers?
- Taken together Provisions 4-10(4) of the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement, and Schedule 5.7(5) of the National Franchise Terms appear to give you the power find an agreeable fare reduction value in partnership with train operators, Network Rail, and the Rail Regulator. You kindly agreed to investigate this so that Redhill and Reigate passengers can have a fair cost adjustment during the period of disruption.
- At present an Annual Gatwick to Zone 1-6 "Thameslink only" season tickets costs £3240, whereas as a Smart Standard Class travel card Zones 1-6 from Redhill costs £3432. Does this disparity give a further reason to reduce the Redhill and Earlswood fares? Since this line, and its customers, subsidise the rest of the network, along with HM Government, is it not unreasonable to expect these customers to pay a premium for inadequate service?

Thousands of my constituents and I await your reply with rather more than normal interest!

*Yours sincerely
Crispin*

Crispin Blunt