

Letter to Employer

Dear _____

Direct action by Redhill, Reigate and District Rail Users, Monday 1st June 2015

We are writing to you, as the Parliamentary Candidates for Reigate, regarding the lamentable train services currently on the Brighton Mainline to and from London Bridge with knock-on disruption to services to and from London Victoria, caused by works at London Bridge planned until 2018. Your employee, _____, uses this line to get to work, is finding that their travel to and from work is so disrupted that they have accepted our invitation not to travel to work on Monday 1st June 2015, in protest at inaction over compensation. Your employee will discuss this with you and be available to work from home or flexibly, as required.

You should understand how difficult it has been for your employees to get to work with one quarter of morning peak-time services withdrawn and daily cancellations and delays. Commuters, who are paying £2,688 (from Redhill) for an annual season ticket to London terminals (without TfL transport) and £3,432 with TfL Zones 1 to 6, have run out of patience and so have we.

We are working together as the Parliamentary Candidates for all the parties represented on Reigate and Banstead Borough Council to show that we are united across the political spectrum on this issue and to express the strength of feeling by all those who use rail services. We implore employers to support us in our cross-party efforts to seek improvements and compensation.

Whilst we would anticipate the first few months of unacceptable operational chaos caused by the works at London Bridge to be addressed, the overall lack of capacity will not be addressed until 2018. Therefore, we invite you, on behalf of your employee, and in the interests of your business, to pledge your support to fairfares2015@gmail.com and to make representations to whoever is the Secretary of State for Transport following the election, as well as to the Mayor of London (Chair of Transport for London), Boris Johnson; the Chief Executive of Govia Thameslink Railway, Charles Horton; and the Chief Executive of Network Rail, Mark Carne.

Specifically, we would be grateful if you could support our calls to deliver the Govia Thameslink franchise commitment to extend Oyster zonal fares to Gatwick, and to seek Zone 6 for these stations. The extension of the Oyster scheme and Zone 6 would at least mean a significant reduction in travel costs for your employee, reflecting the poorer service they have experienced and can expect until 2018.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

Crispin Blunt
Conservative Party Candidate

Jonathan Essex
Green Party Candidate

Anna Tarrant
Liberal Democrat Party Candidate