

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Date: 12/08/2016

Dear Chris,

Thank you for the response to my letter of 20 July that I received from Paul Maynard MP.

I am grateful your department is clear that the situation with Southern services must improve and I welcome the news that the strike has been suspended to allow further talks to take place, but unless action is taken by the Government to bring Southern Rail to account the thousands of commuters who rely on Southern Rail will continue to suffer the appalling level of service they have now been enduring for months on end.

In any other walk of life the service offered to paying customers by GTR Southern would not be tolerated, so enough really is enough. We simply cannot continue to reward failure in this way and it is clear to me that we need a major change if we are to break this impasse.

My offer for TfL to get a grip of Southern Rail still stands. From day one, I am confident that TfL can deliver a far better service than Southern Rail by immediately assigning an experienced team to fix the service. They have expertise in running public transport services that are relied upon day in day out by millions of people, including the complex railway operations of London Underground in addition to Overground, TfL Rail and DLR services.

Importantly, the principle of TfL taking on more rail services and the new accountability arrangements this would require have already been accepted by your department, as set out in the joint DfT/TfL rail prospectus earlier this year, which has the cross-party support of politicians and councils as well as the backing of passenger bodies in London and the wider South East.

I urge you to act now and accept my offer - the passengers who rely on Southern Rail deserve a far better service and this will not happen while the current situation persists.

Yours sincerely,

Sadiq Khan

Mayor of London