

MAYOR OF LONDON

Date: 21 July 2016

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you about the current situation regarding train services operated by Southern, part of the GTR franchise.

Over recent months, the daily struggles your residents and London's workforce have been facing on their daily commutes have become increasingly unbearable and is clearly totally unacceptable. We are all aware of friends, family and colleagues who have been unable to get to work in the morning, been stranded at stations far from home and who have missed their children's bedtime. Despite calls from all parts of the political spectrum for clear and urgent action, the situation continues to worsen.

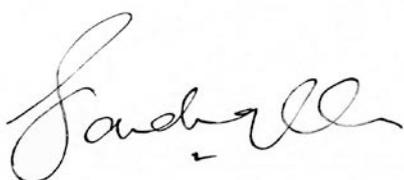
I have made direct representation to the new Secretary of State for Transport, Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, asking that a senior team from Transport for London (TfL) be put in temporary charge of the Southern part of the GTR franchise. TfL has the proven expertise, management capability and resources to stabilise the situation and begin the implementation of a long-term recovery plan.

There are many challenges facing this franchise. My offer will ensure that acceptable service levels resume as quickly as possible, saving your residents precious hours in their day and ensuring the economy of London and the rest of the South East of England suffers no more.

As I stressed in my letter to the Secretary of State for Transport, this is bigger than party politics; it is a crisis that we must work together to solve, in the interests of the hard working rail passengers we represent. My offer is focused on addressing the problems on Southern in the short and medium term. It is separate from my long-term ambition for more suburban rail services within London to be run by TfL, although that is something that I am determined to seek progress on too in my discussions with the Government.

If the Secretary of State accepts my offer, I am committed to keeping you regularly updated about TfL's actions and progress in returning the Southern rail service to reliability and rapidly improving the rail journeys of your residents.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London