

Steve Bullock
Mayor of Lewisham

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Date
Our reference
Your reference

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

Friday 22nd July 2016

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you regarding the well-publicised problems with Southern Rail and the continuing deterioration in the quality of service.

South London relies heavily on suburban rail routes, and as such any deterioration is felt acutely by thousands of people. The level of service has been so bad in recent weeks and months that the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has now requested that Transport for London (TfL) be put in temporary charge of the Southern part of the Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR).

I welcome the Mayor of London's request for TfL to takeover this service temporarily, but I also support the Mayor's long term vision for more suburban services within London to be run permanently by TfL. I hope the Government will work with the Mayor and with London Boroughs more generally on any plans which will see changes to our transport system where the aim is to drastically improve services.

On behalf of Lewisham Councillors, and the people of Lewisham, I would like to request that you strip Southern railway of their franchise immediately and work with the Mayor and TfL to bring about major change and improvement for this integral section of the rail network in London that has served commuters so poorly, for far too long.

Please write back to me as a matter of urgency with your detailed proposals on dealing with this issue which I can share with the Council and with the people of Lewisham more widely.

I would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Secretary of State and hope that your relationship with London Government proves to be a successful partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Steve Bullock
Mayor of Lewisham