

Steve Bullock
Mayor of Lewisham

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Date
Our reference
Your reference

Mr Charles Horton,
Chief Executive Officer,
Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR),
PO Box 10240,
Ashby-De-La-Zouch,
LE65 9EB.

Tuesday 26th July 2016

Dear Mr Horton,

I am writing to you following the unanimous passing of a motion regarding Southern Railway, at the recent full council meeting that took place here in Lewisham last Wednesday (20th July). I attach a copy of the text of this motion for your reference.

This motion is self-explanatory and you will see that as the elected Mayor of Lewisham I have been asked to take a number of actions in relation to the well-publicised poor performance of Southern Railway, a service that is operated by Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR).

As the motion requests, I have written to the new Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon Chris Grayling MP, and I also attach a copy of this for your reference.

I cannot reiterate enough the sentiments I have expressed in my letter to the Secretary of State, in requesting that Southern Railway be stripped of its franchise immediately. This service has been underperforming for an extraordinary length of time, and the recent problems have become so severe for Londoners and those commuting across the south east, that I can see no other option than for the services managed by Southern to be taken over by another operator.

As you will see from my letter to the Secretary of State, I have welcomed the Mayor of London's request for Transport for London (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.

Please can I ask that as CEO of Southern's parent company, you take immediate action to provide relief for the thousands of long suffering passengers and give concrete reassurances on the future performance of the service for as long as Southern is in control of it.

I look forward to receiving a response which I can share with the Council and the people of Lewisham more widely.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Steve Bullock
Mayor of Lewisham