



Department
for Transport

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State
and Minister for London
Jo Johnson MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: jo.johnson@dftr.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dftr

Our Ref: MC/215655

31 JAN 2018

Dear Michael

Thank you for your letter of 14 December 2017 to Paul Maynard, about improving South Western Railway (SWR) services to London from Camberley, Frimley and Bagshot and the reinstatement of the Sturt Lane Chord. I am replying as Minister responsible for rail.

I am grateful for you taking the time to share your views on SWR's timetable consultation. I appreciate your passion for improving rail services in your constituency and I fully understand your concerns over the proposal to reduce services from Camberley, Frimley and Bagshot to Waterloo.

It may be helpful if I explain that both the Department and SWR are aware of this issue relating to services from the above stations, and that this has been registered strongly among the 7,500 consultation responses received by SWR.

These responses will now be considered by SWR in line with standard industry processes before they make their final bid to Network Rail for the December 2018 timetable. The Train Service Specification that we outlined in our Invitation to Tender followed a public consultation exercise. As response to this, we received local support for changes that would improve journey times to London for passengers on this line. We will continue to work with SWR and will consider any amendments that it proposes following this further period of consultation.

In regard to the Sturt Lane Chord, the Department is aware that Surrey County Council considered the reinstatement of the Sturt Lane chord in reviewing its Rail Strategy in April 2016 and concluded that there was unlikely to be a long-term business case for progressing this.

Thank you again for your letter and for raising your concerns. I hope this reply is helpful.

*Yours,
Jo*

JO JOHNSON