



Department
for Transport

House of Commons
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Paul Maynard MP

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Dear Colleague

I wanted to thank you for attending the meeting with the Transport Secretary and me on the 5th August. Performance on the Southern network is our key priority, and that is why the Transport Secretary announced that Network Rail have allocated £20m to improve performance on the Southern network. I thought it would be helpful to set out details of the fund, which will help improve the resilience of Southern network and restore passenger confidence.

As well as other measures, the key priorities for the fund are:

- £2m investment in additional rapid response teams, improving emergency response times and getting trains moving quicker when network issues arise
- £0.8m investment in additional signal supervisors
- £0.4m investment to speed up identification of causes of delay
- £1m investment in dispatch staff at key stations reducing delays
- £3.5m investment in tackling seasonal delays for vegetation management
- £2m on new track through old tunnels
- £0.9m investment in bridge strike prevention
- £2.5m investment in accelerated track maintenance

Additionally, Chris Gibb, one of Britain's most experienced rail industry figures, is heading a new project board and working with the train operator, the Department for Transport and Network Rail, to explore how to rapidly improve passenger services.

The board will oversee the £20m fund and closer working between GTR and Network Rail. We are keen that both Network Rail and GTR should share

responsibility for performance and Mr Gibb will explore ways to bring about closer working between the parties.

Mr Gibb will report directly to the Transport Secretary, though he will be paid by GTR. He will report on his findings later this year. The project board will produce a plan for the implementation of agreed recommendations and work with the management teams of GTR, Network Rail, and Department for Transport, to ensure this is delivered as quickly as possible.

We are keen for your assistance with this work. I would like you to nominate a passenger representative, to be included on this review board to ensure commuters' views are heard and improvements properly reflect passenger demands. Please let me have your nominations directly.

The creation of the project board and Chris Gibb's appointment is a further sign of the Government's commitment to improve services for passengers.

Your support for this initiative is greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Maynard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'd'.

PAUL MAYNARD