



Jeremy Hunt
Member of Parliament
South West Surrey



Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP
Secretary of State
Department of Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SE1 4DR

05 September 2014

Dear Patrick

South West Trains Direct Award

The announcement earlier this week that South West Trains was buying an additional 150 carriages for its suburban capacity expansion plan was very good news, and a positive reflection of the Department for Transport's reinvigorated approach to making things happen.

However, I gather that the Direct Award franchise extension to South West Trains is now not likely to happen until Summer next year, potentially delaying for a number of years urgently needed improvements to the railway around my constituency. The good news for passengers that could be delayed includes things like the introduction of proper smartcard ticketing and better ticket purchase facilities, car park expansions at a number of stations and planning for mainline capacity expansion. It would be bad news for my constituents if those improvements could not happen.

I am told that it would be possible to agree before Christmas an earlier deal within the existing franchise with South West Trains to secure those benefits - which is good to hear. If there is anything I can do to support that important earlier deal then please let me know.

Best wishes

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Member of Parliament for South West Surrey

