



Department  
for Transport

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
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From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

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Our Ref: MC/417303  
Your Ref: MG15365

9 February 2023

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your email of 25 November, about rail services in your constituency. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The pandemic has changed travel habits and train operators will need to reassess their services to ensure they provide rail timetables that meet new passenger travel patterns and carefully balance cost, capacity, and performance. The rail industry has faced and continues to face unprecedented challenges, and operators have been working hard to adjust rail services to ensure new timetables are designed to align with passengers' new requirements.

Passenger demand is still recovering, and with continued industrial action also impacting demand, the industry continues to require enhanced levels of taxpayer subsidy. As part of the rail industry annual business planning process, the Government is engaging closely with operators on the affordability of their future plans to ensure the railways deliver for everyone who uses them and the UK taxpayer.

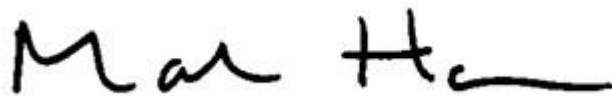
It is in this context that all decisions regarding rail infrastructure must be made. Improved journey times from Frimley, Camberley and Bagshot were previously look at as part of SWR's Franchise Agreement, and it was clear that delivering improvements to journey times would require considerable infrastructure improvements.

Regarding the renovations at the stations you mention, these were last repainted in 2020/21 (Camberley in 2018/19). SWR is also currently tendering for replacement CCTV for many stations on its network, including those in your constituency, to help improve safety for those using the railway.

Separately, SWR now has a new Community Rail Partnership being set up on the Wey Valley Line, running through stations to the south of your constituency, which will help in proposing improvement projects. The operator has stated that it hopes to share some more news with you about a Community Rail Partnership taking space at Camberley station shortly – and my officials will be in touch with your office once details of this are finalised. To that end, SWR would be happy to work with you in encouraging the creation of station adoption groups at stations in your constituency.

The Rail Minister and I would be happy to meet with you to discuss these issues in more detail; our offices will be in touch accordingly.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Harper". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**