

JAMES DUDDRIDGE MP



6th January 2016

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Dear Resident,

LONDON SW1A 0AA

I had very similar concerns to you when I saw the proposals for the c2c timetable changes before the start of the consultation last year. With this in mind, I wrote to both Julian Drury, Managing Director of c2c with my submission for the consultation, and also to Patrick McLoughlin, Secretary of State for Transport outlining my dissatisfaction. You will find these letters below, for your information.

In addition I subsequently met with Julian Drury and, once again, I echoed my concerns for the passengers travelling on the c2c line. I was disappointed that my concerns didn't bring about any changes to the timetable before it was implemented in December last year. For your information, I was advised by c2c that during the consultation 2,239 passengers submitted a response regarding the new timetable and of that 2,239 passengers only 26% of responses were with relation to Southend journey times.

Following the numerous representations made and a petition started by a c2c passenger, I was advised by c2c that two extra fast trains would be added to the morning schedule. Despite that being a step in the right direction, I, and many other passengers, felt that these changes hadn't gone far enough. A meeting took place at my offices in November with c2c and the passenger whom started the petition, during which more changes were requested. As a consequence, c2c wrote to me on 18th December in a letter which I have shared on my website already, outlining further changes to the timetable.

I have since written again to the Secretary of State Patrick McLoughlin regarding the timetable and am currently awaiting a formal response. This matter remains firmly on my radar and despite more changes having been made to the timetable by c2c on Monday 4th January, I am still receiving complaints from constituents about the service so there is clearly more that needs to be done.

This is an issue which I have been monitoring very closely and one which remains a focus for me. I have made several representations on the situation going back to August 2014 and am trying to assist constituents in campaigning for further changes.

I will of course issue a further update as soon as I am able.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Duddridge', written over a horizontal line.

JAMES DUDDRIDGE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minister Houses
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

18th August 2014

Please find enclosed correspondence that I have received from the Southend on Sea Railway Travellers Association regarding concerns they have about the proposal for alterations to the train timetable on the Essex Thameside Franchise.

As you can see from the attached, the proposal is to have all trains calling at Limehouse, West Ham and Barking during peak morning and evening travel times. Throughout the tender process I made my position on this very clear with each company that were bidding for the line, I did not want to see a metro style system operate in part, or in full on the route. I firmly believe that these proposals will have a detrimental economic impact on the local area and I wholly oppose these proposals.

I would be grateful if you could reassure me that this is a proposal and is open to negotiation and review.

James Duddridge MP

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Julian Drury
2nd Floor,
Cutlers Court,
115 Houndsditch
London EC3A 7BR

27th November 2014

Dear Julian,

Firstly, thank you for providing me with the relevant documents regarding the timetable consultation, this letter is my formal consultation submission.

During the tender process I met with all companies that were bidding for the franchise and subsequently wrote to them all outlining my desire to have later trains out of Southend, my concerns regarding the rolling stock and finally my concerns around a metro style line.

I am delighted that the rolling stock for the line will not be downgraded. This was a very real concern of not only mine but also commuters, I really didn't want to see the line return to the days of being branded the misery line.

I am pleased that c2c are providing later trains out of, and into London, they are not yet as late as I would hope but it is a step in the right direction.

Regarding the proposal to have every commuter train stopping at West Ham, Limehouse and then finally arriving at Fenchurch Street is of real concern to me and it is not an idea that I can support. Every commuter train stopping at all of the suggested stations will have a hugely detrimental impact on the economic growth of Southend.

Over the years I have been a strong voice of support and advocate for c2c but you have got this very wrong and in the strongest possible terms I urge you to reconsider this proposal. I would welcome a number of trains during peak commuter hours that provide quicker access direct to London Fenchurch Street.

Yours sincerely

James Duddridge MP

Member of Parliament for Rochford & Southend East

Tel: 01702 616 135