



Andrew Jones MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

17 July 2019

Dear Minister

GTR PASSENGER BENEFIT FUND

The Greenwich Line Users' Group campaigns on behalf of passengers using Deptford, Greenwich, Maze Hill and Westcombe Park stations. Thameslink trains were introduced on this line last year and passengers suffered considerable disruption for some time, in common with passengers on other Thameslink routes. I attended a meeting yesterday with GTR regarding the use of the Passenger Benefit Fund, which was set up as a result of this disruption.

Our Users' Group welcomed the announcement of this Fund, but cannot understand why the money allocated to these stations cannot be spent on the actual stations themselves, simply because they are not managed by GTR. We are amazed to now learn that this restriction does not apply to six Southeastern managed stations in the Sevenoaks constituency. This is completely inconsistent, and we cannot understand the logic of the position.

As far as passengers are concerned, the Passenger Benefit Fund should be used to benefit all passengers who were affected by last year's disruption, irrespective of who manages their station. As the restriction is not being imposed consistently, could it now be removed from all stations served by Thameslink, and not just those in the Sevenoaks constituency?

If this is done, could you also please extend the deadline for responses from stakeholders and passengers using these stations, so there is time for a full consultation by GTR and local Councils on how the Fund can be used for their local benefit?

Yours sincerely

Mike Sparham
Convenor
Greenwich Line Users' Group

email: greenwichline@outlook.com

reply address: 87 Westcombe Hill, London SE3 7DU