



West London Line Group



98 Manor Way, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3LR

07843 234002

www.westlondonlinegroup.org.uk

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The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin, MP
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State

Revised Southern Timetable – West London Line – Summer 2016

I am writing to you on behalf of all West London Line users to express our deepest concern about the decision to withdraw all trains between East Croydon and Milton Keynes on Mondays to Fridays for what appears to be an indefinite period.

We would ask you to arrange for this decision to be reversed and for the complete service to be restored.

Given the usage levels between Clapham Junction and Shepherd's Bush, withdrawal of both the GTR/Southern 'through' and the extra shuttles would cause unacceptable pressures on the remaining London Overground trains in both peaks.

We would therefore ask you to ensure that, as a minimum, the shuttles are maintained, either worked by Southern (and in these circumstances by an 8-car unit) or by London Overground using the Southern paths. In the latter case, we would suggest that, if no spare five-car Class 378 unit is available, up to four Class 172 units not being used during the Gospel Oak-Barking closure should be coupled together and allocated for this.

Either option would only need one train formation and one spreadover duty, yet these would considerably strengthen this two-way commuter service in both directions in both peaks.

Even at this late stage, this should be an achievable improvement, both in terms of passenger convenience and as a public demonstration of the flexibility and responsiveness that can be shown in such situations by the Government and the other parties concerned.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Mark Balaam
Chairman