



HOUSE OF COMMONS

2nd March 2020

Dear local residents,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about the Rail Review.

I was interested to read your views on our railways. However, I believe that privatisation of the railways has been a success. Passenger journeys have more than doubled from 735 million in 1994-5 to a record 1.759 billion in 2018-19 and there are now more trains running than any time in the railway's history.

That said, I recognise that accommodating this growth in demand for rail travel is challenging, and so I welcome that Ministers have launched a root-and-branch review into rail operations. As you are aware, the review is being independently chaired by Keith Williams, who brings valuable experience as deputy chairman of John Lewis and as a former chief executive of British Airways.

The review is focussed on developing recommendations for reforms that put passengers at the heart of the railway. It has been looking at the structure of the whole rail industry, including increasing integration between train and track, regional partnerships, and improving money for users and taxpayers. Ministers have committed to producing a White Paper informed by the recommendations of the review, to deliver genuine and lasting reform.

In the meantime, the Government will continue to take steps to improve passenger experiences. Ministers are committed to delivering the biggest investment in the railways since Victorian times, with investment between 2019 and 2024 confirmed at £47.9 billion. This is targeted at delivering new rolling stock, station and infrastructure upgrades, maintenance and improved reliability.

Furthermore, £500 million has been committed to drive forward the reversal of the controversial Beeching cuts and level-up regional economies by enhancing access to education and jobs.

To support commuters, new legislation will also be introduced to ensure that minimum levels of service are maintained during transport strikes, while preserving rail workers' right to strike.



I hope that this information is helpful. If you have any further concerns about this, or anything else, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Hunt'.

Jane Hunt MP