



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
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Dear colleague,

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As you will be aware, my Department has been working hard to find a way to lengthen trains for Southeastern metro services, to provide more comfortable journeys for passengers ahead of the new South Eastern franchise.

I am very pleased to tell you that as of today (Monday 18 September), Southeastern passengers will start seeing the first of 68 extra carriages added to their morning commuter trains into London.

A third of peak time services will be lengthened, offering Southeastern customers more than 5,000 additional seats. Along with the 32 carriages already transferred to Southeastern in December 2016, I am confident passengers will notice the benefits of these longer trains immediately.

The carriages were transferred from GTR to Southeastern under the oversight of the Department for Transport. These units are in the early part of their 30-year life cycle and were built 2008/9 and will be modified for use on the Southeastern network.

The extra carriages will be added onto existing services between now and November. This increase in capacity will allow Southeastern to run longer services into Cannon Street and Victoria stations in peak hours.

I am committed to getting passengers more comfortable, reliable and efficient journeys. I hope you will join me in sharing the good news about longer trains on Southeastern with your constituents who may travel by rail.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT