



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

28 November 2017

Charles Horton  
Managing Director, Govia Thameslink Railway  
Monument Place  
24 Monument Street  
London  
EC3R 8AJ

Dear Charles,

We are extremely disappointed to learn about the plan by Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) to postpone the introduction of the Maidstone East-Cambridge service until December 2019. Since this service was first proposed last year, it has been universally welcomed by all communities who use the Maidstone East line as a means of restoring its connection with London Bridge and Blackfriars throughout the day, lost in 2009.

Many residents have been moving near to stations on this line in the expectation that the service would be introduced, as planned, from 2018. Therefore to have a delay of over a year is significantly disappointing to all those who have looked forward to this.

We would like to know why the decision has been made to postpone this so close to the planned start of the new timetable, and not earlier considering the years of suffering by commuters on this line. It looks as though GTR is once again putting the interests of passengers in Kent second, particularly with the proposal to remove the direct service to London Victoria from Tonbridge as well.

We would appreciate an urgent meeting with you to discuss our concerns. We have also copied this letter to the Rail Minister, Paul Maynard MP.

Best wishes,

**TRACEY CROUCH MP, Chatham and Aylesford**  
**HELEN GRANT MP, Maidstone and the Weald**  
**TOM TUGENDHAT MP, Tonbridge and Malling**  
**HELEN WHATELY MP, Faversham and Mid Kent**

CC:  
Paul Maynard MP, Rail Minister