

# KEVIN HOLLINRAKE MP



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 4DR

7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Chris,

We remain deeply concerned that passengers using the TransPennine Express (TPE) to and from Manchester, Leeds, York, Malton, Filey and Scarborough are still experiencing serious delays and cancellations along the route and we ask that you intervene in this matter.

We have secured a Westminster Hall debate at 4pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September and I understand that Jo Johnson will respond on behalf of the Government. This will give colleagues who have stations in their constituencies along the route the opportunity to highlight their constituents' grievances and to discuss what needs to be done to ensure that passengers get the service they are entitled to expect.

We have already taken the issue up with TransPennine Express and plan to meet them again in early September. They said that some of the recent problems have been caused in Central Manchester where there is currently significant congestion on the Castlefield corridor between Manchester Oxford Road and Manchester Victoria, affecting services towards Scarborough, via York, Malton and Seamer. This is no consolation for our constituents who are experiencing regular delays preventing them from getting to work and to other appointments on time or facing general ongoing inconvenience.

In an email, TPE stated that "Network Rail has recently introduced a new train regulation policy for York station, which has presented further problems and worsened delays. Network Rail refused to accept any train, travelling east or west, that was running several minutes late in an effort to protect the operation of the East Coast Main Line thanks to the number of late-running LNER services passing through York." Network Rail, however, have denied this policy to local press. According to TPE, this policy initially severely affected its operation. In the first week of the policy, it said it was forced to cancel trains travelling north via Thirsk and Northallerton at York. The train would then remain at York for hours having been refused permission to continue north by Network Rail. In one instance, spectators travelling to watch cricket at Scarborough were turned back at Malton.

TPE suggest that Network Rail has now relaxed this policy and note that Scarborough services have been excluded from its severest implementation. There is more that can be done; it is clear that there needs to be a more efficient collaborative approach to delivering services between Network Rail and the train operators. The whole situation needs to be urgently reviewed. We have received a number of letters from frustrated passengers, who, understandably, are fed up with the very poor service they have had all summer. We remain determined to do everything we can to bring the relevant parties together to resolve these issues as quickly as possible and would appreciate your assistance in this regard.

Kevin Hollinrake MP  
Thirsk and Malton

Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP  
Scarborough and Whitby

Julian Sturdy MP  
York Outer