



WILLIAM WRAGG MP
Member of Parliament for Hazel Grove Constituency
13 Stockport Road, Marple, Stockport, SK6 6BD

Mr David Brown
Managing Director
Northern
Square One, 4 Travis Street
Manchester, M1 2NY

17th August 2018

Dear Mr Brown,

I am writing as the Member of Parliament for the Hazel Grove constituency to call on both Northern and the RMT Union to find a resolution to their ongoing dispute, through meaningful and constructive talks.

I urge both parties to continue talks and to follow the mediation process facilitated by ACAS and I urge the RMT to postpone its planned strikes on 25th August, 1st September and 8th September.

Passengers deserve and expect a decent and reliable rail service. These strikes are simply compounding the problems that were caused by the timetabling fiasco.

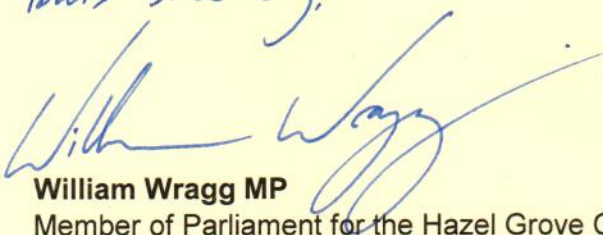
My constituents, and passengers across the Northern network, have already suffered a summer of disruption since the timetable changes in May. They have had to tolerate gaps in services, overcrowded trains and numerous delays.

To compound this with a bout of strikes over three weekends, including the final summer bank holiday, is to add insult to injury for passengers and will attract little public sympathy for either side in this dispute.

The ongoing Northern modernisation plans to improve rail networks, stations, rolling stock and services are important to meet the needs of customers, and are vital to the future viability of the service. It is in the interest of both passengers and rail staff that they are delivered successfully, safely and amicably.

I therefore again urge both Northern and the RMT Union to resolve these matters as soon as possible and to engage positively with ACAS mediated talks.

Yours sincerely,


William Wragg MP
Member of Parliament for the Hazel Grove Constituency

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