



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

I am writing to you to follow up on our discussion about the South Eastern franchise competition on the 30th January.

Firstly, I'd like to reassure you that the South Eastern franchise aims to put the passenger at the heart of the new franchise, improving the overall passenger experience, boosting capacity through longer trains as well as the reliability of services.

With respect to the worked example provided in the South Eastern Invitation to Tender (ITT) described under paragraph 6.7.1.1b (Maidstone East Thameslink services are delayed in definitely), I would like to reassure you that this is a purely hypothetical scenario. It is intended to evaluate the robustness and ability of the bidders financial models to take account of 'changes' to some underlying franchise assumptions. This testing is necessary as the financial model of the winning bidder will be used during the life of the franchise. The example was selected as the introduction of Maidstone East services is the largest known financial change over the life of the new franchise.

The inclusion of this example is not an indication on the Department's views on the deliverability of the Thameslink Maidstone East service, which remains on track for delivery in December 2019.

I hope this assures you of our intentions to deliver the best possible outcome for passengers through the competition.

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT