



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ms Nicky Chiswick
Nutfield Parish Council
27 Shirley Avenue
Redhill
RH1 5AH

25 July 2018

Dear Ms Chiswick,

Thank you for your email and letter regarding Govia services and aircraft noise. I appreciate the serious concerns that residents of Nutfield have on this two issues and can assure you that I have read carefully and taken note of the points you have raised.

Rail Services

The experience of passengers across the Govia network has been unacceptable, particularly since the changes to the timetable, and this is something I have made clear in all of my communications with both Govia and Secretary of State Chris Grayling. I can assure you that I am in constant contact with both the Department for Transport and Govia and regularly share the experiences of constituents directly at the highest levels.

I post information about the work I am doing to put pressure on Govia on my Facebook page and have a mailing list that receives email updates on this work. If any of your residents would like to be added to that mailing list, please ask them to get in touch with me directly via sam@samgyimah.com.

On the service from Nutfield specifically, I have raised the case of the loss of the direct train with Govia multiple times, most recently to highlight how this has also meant the failures during the timetable change are having a more severe impact on those that have to change at Redhill, given passengers are subject to double the delays. Govia have explained the rationale behind the removal of the direct service, referencing demand issues, so I will be writing to Nick Brown, the Chief Operating Officer, to ask for the proof of this lack of demand, including specific statistics and the markers they use to determine sufficient demand. I will provide you with an update on this when I can, as well as any further action that can be taken should the information be unsatisfactory.



Gatwick flightpaths

I can assure you that issues with noise on Route 3 are not forgotten. Recently, fellow Gatwick area MPs and I met with Baroness Sugg and the CEO of Gatwick to discuss noise issues more widely and highlight the impact of noise on our communities. You will find enclosed Baroness Sugg's summary of action the Government is taking, which I hope you will find reassuring. There are multiple opportunities for local communities to engage and should anybody need any help doing so, please do ask them to get in touch.

Understandably, residents have questioned the difference between Route 3 and 4 in the context of the recent CAA court ruling on Route 4. I raised this directly with Gatwick recently, and they have said:

"The Consent Order was brought against the decision on Route 4 and the Route 3 departure is not subject to the same process; the change process for this departure route has been completed.

However, the Noise Management Board has work in its portfolio to consider raising the initial climb restriction on Route 3. GAL will be taking this work forward, but the complexity of the airspace and interaction with Heathrow routes means that one Heathrow departure route needs to be removed, and a second route to have an increased climb rate designed into the procedure in order to allow the increase in initial altitude on Gatwick's Route 3 from 3000 to 4000ft. Heathrow are willing to support the initiative and have agreed in principle to both changes. However, this will require multiple airspace changes which will be time consuming and resource intensive, as well as requiring the 'good will' and support of several industry stakeholder."

While this is promising, I appreciate that this work will take some time and there may be ideas about what can be done in the shorter term. I would be more than happy to arrange a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council and the CAA, Gatwick and/or Heathrow to put Nutfield's concerns to them directly. Do let me know if this is something you would like to take forward.

I can assure you that I will continue to press all parties hard on both of these issues and I hope this is helpful in setting out just some of the work I have been doing.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Gyimah MP