

From: STEWART, Bob <bob.stewart.mp@parliament.uk>

Date: Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 11:30 AM

Subject: SOUTHEASTER BECKENHAM JUNCTION TO BLACKFRIARS PEAK HOURS SERVICE

To: [REDACTED]@southeasternrailway.co.uk <[REDACTED]@southeasternrailway.co.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your prompt and detailed response to my letter in an e mail. I will use that means to respond to what you wrote.

The figures you quote in your response are very useful for providing the context behind the decision-making process with regards to when lines may be reinstated. However, to help give commuters greater confidence in when to return to commuting please could I ask that you expand on this, so that local commuters have clarification I am keen to know:

1. You wrote that currently only 37% of commuters have returned to the Victoria services compared to early 2020, what is the threshold for Southeastern to deem reinstating the direct rush hour service to London Blackfriars appropriate?
2. How often will timetable changes be made as people begin returning to the commute in relation to the above threshold?
3. How often, if at all, does Thameslink share passenger numbers data with Southeastern to assess if capacity remains to take those changing at Herne Hill?
4. Similarly, how, if at all, is Southeastern measuring the number of commuters changing at Herne Hill from the Beckenham Junction to Victoria trains to the services to Blackfriars to assess if the services provided meet the demands of commuters?
5. Is Southeastern modelling anticipated commuter numbers, to ensure that capacity is provided before trains become full, or are decisions based on solely on those have already returned to commuting?

The above five questions will help provide clarity to commuters who may be concerned about the reduced services being offered from Beckenham Junction. Greater transparency in how these decisions are being made will help ensure commuters have confidence in returning to work.

I appreciate that these are still uncertain times and that Southeastern will not want to run empty trains, but I am concerned that the approach you have outlined is a little too reactive and that capacity may not be there when it is needed. So I hope the answers to the above question will alleviate these concerns as well as provide both clarity and transparency to my constituents.

With best wishes,

Bob