



Department
for Transport

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From the Minister of State
and Minister for London
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Dear Mr Leathley

Thank you for copying to me your letter of 8 August to Chris Grayling, about improving the rail passenger experience in London using Transport for London's (TfL) concession model. I am replying as Minister responsible for rail.

I am grateful for your views on the case for transferring services to TfL to be operated as a TfL-style concession and I have passed your views to my officials.

As you will be aware, last November the Department published the Strategic Vision for Rail which laid out the next steps on franchise reform and the alternative commercial models that we are considering. This included the use of management contracts where appropriate and the potential transfer of services to TfL.

Furthermore, in May, the Secretary of State laid out his plans to restructure the Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern (TSGN) franchise following the successful delivery of the Thameslink Programme. The Secretary of State indicated that TSGN will be separated into two or more franchises after the end of the current contract and that a decision has yet to be reached on how to operate Great Northern services. Any changes to the current TSGN franchise will be subject to consultation.

In regards to your suggestions on which Govia Thameslink Railway services should be transferred to TfL, I can inform you that there have been discussions between the Secretary of State and the London Mayor over the possibility of transferring some Great Northern services, Finsbury Park-Moorgate Line, to London Overground.

However, for routes that serve passengers outside the jurisdiction of the Greater London Authority, such as your recommendation of services through Dorking and Guildford, it is very important that we work in consultation with all affected stakeholders.

Any decision on devolution will be subject to consultation and be made in the best interests of all passengers and taxpayers. The case for any potential devolution across the rail network is made on a case by case basis as and when franchises come up for renewal, with the next opportunity to consider devolving any services to TfL being at the end of the current TSGN franchise.

Thank you again for your letter and for raising your concerns with us. I hope this reply is helpful.

*Yours,
Jo*

JO JOHNSON