



LAURA FARRIS MP

Member of Parliament for Newbury

Wendy Morton MP
Minister of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
SW1P 4DR

23rd March 2022

Dear Wendy,

RE: Great Western Railway services west of Newbury

Following our conversation last night and prior to our meeting next week, I am writing to outline the issue I wish to discuss. I recently met with Great Western Railway (GWR) and the Bedwyn Train Passenger Group (BTPG) and I understand that GWR are proposing to cease most through trains on the service between London Paddington and Bedwyn, Hungerford and Kintbury from their May timetable.

This change will leave three through trains eastbound from Paddington to Bedwyn at peak times and will result in passengers having to make one, or sometimes two, changes as part of their travel where currently direct services are available. I understand that the principle reason for this decision is because GWR have decided to take the Intercity Express Trains (IET) out of circulation between Paddington and Bedwyn and move them to the West Country to make up for a shortage there.

Many residents are deeply concerned by the proposals as, despite marked service improvements in recent years, this would represent a significant deterioration in services. The proposal has been described by the BTPG as “the worst timetable since June 1992”. For many, this would also make travel to London via train unviable for peak time commuting purposes which is extremely frustrating for my many constituents who live in the affected areas but work in London.

As such, residents would like these planned changes reversed to ensure that regular through trains between London Paddington and Bedwyn, Hungerford and Kintbury remain in peak and off-peak times.

I look forward to meeting you next week to discuss this further.

Yours ever,

Laura Farris MP
Member of Parliament for Newbury

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