



Ms Meliha Duymaz
Route Managing Director | Anglia
Network Rail - Anglia
1 Stratford Place
Westfield Stratford City
Montfichet Road E20 1EJ

Our Ref: ZA50719

20 June 2018

Dear Ms Duymaz,

Track Defect at London Liverpool Street

Thank you for your letter dated 20 June regarding the track defect at London Liverpool Street which resulted in significant disruption for passengers last week. I am grateful for your quick response and I am pleased that the temporary fix has now been installed, allowing a full service to resume and operate normally.

However, I remained concerned with some aspects of Network Rail's response to this incident last week and I will outline these concerns below.

Firstly, you have confirmed that the track in question had been identified by Network Rail engineers as needing to be replaced in January 2018 and that it was expected to remain within the tolerable limits for wear until the new piece of track could be installed in October. This raises significant safety concerns; the track deteriorated quicker than expected and train operators were still allowed to run their services over this piece of track potentially putting passengers and train staff at risk. When this section of track was identified for repair, why did Network Rail not install a temporary fix at this point to ensure that the track would not deteriorate further before October? How regularly did Network Rail engineers check this piece of track following the discovery of this defect? Was Greater Anglia, as the train operator, made aware of this defect immediately so suitable precautions could be put in place, such as speed restrictions, to limit the risk of the track deteriorating further and to ensure the safety of passengers travelling along this route?

The installation of the permanent piece of track will not be installed until October and you have advised that the temporary section of the track will be safe to use during this period and that engineers will carry out extra inspections in this area. However, in January, the track was expected to remain within the tolerable limits of wear until the new piece of track could be installed and there is no guarantee that this temporary fix will not also deteriorate before October. I would like to know when these inspections will take place and how regularly this will be. If a problem with the temporary fix is identified between

now and the installation of the new piece of track, what will Network Rail do to ensure that the disruption seen last week will not occur again and will Network Rail work with Greater Anglia to ensure that passenger safety is prioritised?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Patel', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Priti Patel
Member of Parliament for Witham