



Department
for Transport

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Dear Gentile

Thank you for your letter of 28 October to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, about devolving train services in London. Your letter has been transferred to this Department for reply and I am responding as Minister responsible for transport in London.

I thank you for taking the time to further outline the London Assembly's view in support of South London devolution. I note that in our previous correspondence (18 October) the Secretary of State mentioned that we are now considering whether the business case set out by the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, will improve services for all passengers, including long distance commuters. We will also need to understand how the Mayor intends to fund his proposals. I would like to reassure you that assessing the business case put forward by the Mayor is of great importance to the Department. A decision will be made in due course.

That said, I was pleased to read that your support is predicated on the benefits of quality and reliability for all. I can assure you that improving services for all passengers is at the heart of every decision the Department makes. It is also right, as you suggest, that any decision must be based on affordability so we can secure better value for money to both taxpayers and fare-payers.

Thank you again for your letter, I hope this reply is helpful.

*Yours sincerely,
Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon*

LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON