



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Great Minster House
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Mr Mick Lynch,
General Secretary, National Union of Rail, Maritime and
Transport Workers,
Unity House,
39 Chalton Street,
London, NW1 1JD

28 November 2022

Dear Mr Lynch,

Thank you for meeting me last week; it was constructive and positive.

We both agree the industrial dispute on the railways has gone on too long. It's bad for your members, losing out on pay and overtime, bad for businesses who depend on trains to bring them goods and customers and bad for people across our country who depend on the railways. Worse, disruption pushes more and more people away from using the railways, some of whom will never come back. We both want a long-term sustainable railway that provides both great service and rewarding jobs. Every day's industrial action makes that harder to deliver.

There is a way forwards to meet everyone's needs. By modernising working practices, we can deliver the savings that lower post-Covid passenger numbers require, restore financial sustainability and not place an unfair burden on taxpayers. My role is to facilitate and support – not negotiate. Negotiations will continue between trade unions and employers, but I can see scope for agreement.

Let me set out how I think we can help support that. Better information sharing between the Rail Minister, trade unions and those leading the negotiations on behalf of the employers can speed up this process. We will soon convene a further meeting to help advance, with the good faith of all parties, settlement discussions and progress in this dispute.

I want to work with you and employers in good faith to help resolve these long-standing issues, and help the employers and you reach a resolution that is fair to all. I would hope this will lead to progress that will allow you to call off industrial action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Harper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Mark Harper MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT