

30th June 2017

Consultation Co-ordinator
Department for Transport
Zone 1/29 Great Minster House
London SW1P 4DR
consultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk

To the Consultation Co-ordinator,

Re: South Eastern rail franchise public consultation

Heart of London Business Alliance serves as the voice for 500 businesses and 100 property owners in the Piccadilly & St James's and Leicester Square areas. Our purpose is to support the commercial wellbeing of the businesses and organisations we represent, and ensure our areas remain integral to London's West End offer as a place for people to visit, live, trade and work.

Our member organisations have raised concerns that proposals to simplify timetables for the South Eastern rail franchise could adversely affect their workers and patrons (Q17). While we accept that no specific proposals have been put forward at this stage we would like to put on record that continuity of service to both Charing Cross and Victoria stations from the maximum number of stations in the franchise area is very important to our members. We would not support any simplification that led to individual stations or lines stopping services to these termini.

In particular the example given that Metro services on the north Kent (between Dartford and Charlton), Greenwich and Bexleyheath lines could terminate solely at Cannon Street would be a change that our members would oppose. Our members have raised concern about the use of Cannon Street as a terminus for these lines, as this will significantly inconvenience staff members coming to and from work, as well as visitors and customers from areas served by those lines. Particularly at peak times the District and Circle lines are at or exceeding their capacity, resulting in delays and inconvenience for passengers that need to get to the West End.

Regular commuters and visitors may also have to incur additional expense by being forced to use the tube or buses to transfer from London Bridge, Cannon Street or Blackfriars when previously they could have walked to their destination from a West End station.

It is important that the maximum number of routes in the South Eastern franchise have a proportion at least of their services terminating in the West End (i.e. Charing Cross or Victoria) rather than requiring a transfer from another London station.

We have no comment to make on the remainder of the consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback through the consultation process. Please keep us informed of the next stage of proposals.

Sincerely yours,



Ros Morgan
Chief Executive