



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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I write in response to Southeastern's current consultation on the December 2019 timetable. On the whole, I welcome the changes being proposed and support Southeastern's aim of delivering quicker journeys and mitigating those regular delays that come about as a result of clashes and interactions with other services.

In particular, I am pleased to see that a number of small changes are being made to the timetabling of the Grove Park to Bromley North service in the evening. As you know, I have raised the rigidity in timetabling on this particular connection with you on many occasions before, a problem that continues to see a large number of passengers frequently miss their onward services. It is right that Southeastern seeks to correct this anomaly, but I would stress that the modest tweaks being proposed - which impact only three services - will quite clearly not be enough to address the wider problem. Connections at Grove Park are missed at all times of the day and I would urge you in the strongest possible terms to look at what other improvements can be made, especially during the morning and evening commute, to ensure that passengers have enough time to transfer to their connecting service, amending the timetable to allow for the knock-on effect of minor delays.

It seems pragmatic to alter slightly the start time of London Charing Cross to Sevenoaks services as well as the 06:56 Sevenoaks to Cannon Street service. As the consultation document points out, this will help prevent disruption caused by other services on the line, a problem I regularly encounter commuting between Chislehurst and London Waterloo East.

It is disappointing to see that no consideration is given in the consultation to the merits of reinstating a number of the services between Bickley and London Victoria that were cut as part of the May 2018 timetable. Many passengers still feel short-changed as a result of those network-wide alterations, with the reduction in services continuing to be a source of real frustration for passengers. Many would simply like to see the provision in place pre-May 2018 reinstated.

Finally, as you know, I believe we should reassess the feasibility of reopening the Bromley North line so that direct services to and from central London can run from this station. I appreciate that progress is being made in this regard, with a Sunday service from Bromley North scheduled to be introduced in due course. However, Bromley town centre is classed as



an Opportunity Area in the London Plan, its population continues to grow significantly, and with a number of large planning applications already in the pipeline it is vital that we plan for the future and ensure capacity keeps pace with demand.

I would be grateful if you would treat these comments as a formal response to the consultation. As always, I would be very happy to discuss any of these matters with you further.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bob Neill'.

**Bob Neill MP**