



The Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP
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Your Ref:
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Request for Meeting: Effect of December 2019 Timetable Deferral of New Thameslink Service to Maidstone East

I am writing to express my grave concern at the further deferral of the new Thameslink service to Maidstone East. I and many other colleagues have received assurances on several occasions that the already delayed service would commence in December 2019, yet once again the residents of Maidstone, Bearsted, West Malling, Borough Green and Otford have been let down.

It is perhaps necessary to remind you that this new Thameslink service was originally due to commence in January 2018. It was then deferred to May 2018, then to December 2018, then to December 2019, and now to an unknown date in the future. I am sure you will agree that this continual deferral of a much-needed rail service and the additional capacity and connectivity it will deliver is completely unacceptable.

I am therefore writing to request an urgent meeting with yourself and the Kent County Council Members whose divisions are directly affected by this latest set-back. Could you please advise me of your availability for a meeting to understand the reasons for this further delay and to receive some assurance as to when this new service will actually commence.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely

MIKE WHITING
Member serving Swale West
Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste