

Rt Hon Geoff Hoon MP
Secretary of State for Transport
& MP for Ashfield
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

20th October 2008

Dear Mr Hoon,

CUTS TO TRAIN SERVICES IN EAST MIDLANDS

On behalf of constituents, Nottinghamshire Campaign for Better Transport has endeavoured to keep local MPs updated on local Nottinghamshire transport issues. As these have had less impact on Ashfield I have not included you on recent updates, however there are major problems looming for parts of East Midlands.

These problems are a result of what Better Transport believes to be a serious failure by the DfT in its defining of the new East Midlands Trains contract. This is usefully illustrated by a table I recently prepared for Cllr Smedley to show the gulf between what is provided to the north and to the east of Nottingham.

By chance I chose a station in your constituency, Sutton Parkway, and compared it with stations east of Nottingham. 2008 is the current service and 2009 the future service:

Number of Sunday trains to Nottingham	2008	2009	
Sutton Parkway	0	10	Brand new service
Radcliffe	6 ¹	1	84% reduction

Time of last train (M-F) to Nottingham	2008	2009	
Sutton Parkway	21:58	22:57	About hour later
Aslockton	22:10	20:02	About 2 hours earlier

¹ Winter service. Summer total is 9 trains = 89% reduction.

Number of Nottingham commuter departures 16:30 to 19:00 M-F to:	2008	2009	
Sutton Parkway	4	4	No change
Radcliffe	4	2	50% reduction

Number of Nottingham commuter arrivals 07:30 to 09:00 M-F from:	2008	2009	
Sutton Parkway	4	4	No change
Lowdham	2	1	50% reduction

The question being asked east of Nottingham is, 'what have we done to upset the bureaucrats?'. I know it isn't true (I hope), but it has been noted locally that public services appear to be axed in Tory boroughs in order to fund Labour boroughs.

I enclose a letter just sent to DfT that summarises our arguments, although there are many other deficiencies in the timetable orchestrated by the DfT and the enclosed just covers the most serious hardship.

I underline my paragraph in the letter on Climate Change. The DfT appears to be ignoring every element of Government policy and encouraging has many travellers as possible to switch from rail to road.

There are many background papers at our website:

http://www.bettertransport.org.uk/nottinghamshire_local_group

Yours sincerely,

David Thornhill
Chair – Nottinghamshire Campaign for Better Transport