

HELEN GRANT MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Theresa Villiers MP
Minister of State
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

25th August 2011

Our ref HG/WN

Dear Theresa

Kent rail fare increases and other matters

I am writing to you further to recent announcements confirming regulated rail fares are going up with the RPI plus 3% formula across the country, with the exception of two franchises.

Whilst I understand and agree with the decision to invest in our railways and train infrastructure, I also believe my constituents have already paid their fair share for this. As you know, Southeastern rail fares have been subject to a plus 3% formula for some time, in order to pay for High Speed 1 costs, while the rest of the country has been limited to a plus 1%.

As fares are now being increased across the UK to cover the costs of rail upgrades and High Speed 2, I believe fares from Southeastern should be lowered back to the RPI plus 1% formula. It seems to me to be entirely unfair that my constituents have to pay twice for rail and train improvements.

You will also recall that I recently asked two parliamentary questions in the Chamber relating to the loss of the City of London service and the poor state of the rail service in Kent more generally. In your response to both of these questions you agreed to meet with me to discuss the issues further. I would be grateful if you could confirm when that meeting might be convenient for you as soon as possible after Parliament resumes.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Grant'.

HELEN GRANT MP

Serving the Constituents of Maidstone & The Weald

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