

Subject: leaflet campaign - victoria services
To: <SRUG@southwarkrailusers.net>
From: Peter Foot <Peter.Foot@dft.gsi.gov.uk>
Date: Tue, 10 Jan 2012 09:06:46

Last autumn, Southwark Rail Users Group ran a leaflet campaign entitled 'Save our Victoria Services' in which you asked people to send their views to the Minister of State, Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP.

Several dozen emails were sent to the Minister of State as a result. Rather than sending individual replies to all these emails the Minister of State has asked me to send you a statement on the subject that you could display on your website.

The statement runs:

The Mayor of London has exercised his right to specify the train service pattern that should operate on the South London Line (SLL) from December 2012 and has chosen to use the capacity available for local services to route four East London Line (ELL) trains per hour through Peckham Rye to Clapham Junction.

The Coalition Government is firmly committed to its localism agenda and does not intend to intervene in decisions, either in transport or in other matters, which are properly the domain of local authorities. There is no question, therefore, of central Government Ministers challenging the Mayor's specification.

However, both Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill will still retain a service of two or more trains per hour both to Victoria and to Blackfriars and the Thameslink network. Peckham Rye will still have four trains an hour to London Bridge; these are all in addition to the new service of four trains an hour both to the City via the ELL and to Clapham Junction.

It is not possible for the Southeastern train operator to run any more peak trains on the Peckham Rye route, nor to offer any radical re-timing of their services, because their trains approach Peckham Rye either from Lewisham or from Catford on routes that are completely full, and tightly-timetabled, at peak times. It may be possible to add some stops to services which currently run through Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill without stopping. The feasibility and desirability of these additional stops are under consideration.

I hope the statement is helpful.

Regards

Peter Foot
Rail Operations Advisor
Department for Transport