



Department  
for Transport

From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt. Hon. Chris Grayling**

Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000  
E-Mail: [chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.grayling@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Web site: [www.gov.uk/dft](http://www.gov.uk/dft)

17 January 2017

Dear Colleague,

I wanted to let you know that Aslef have this morning offered to suspend their industrial action on Southern and have agreed to talks over the coming days.

I have proposed, and they have agreed, that the talks should be chaired by Frances O'Grady the General Secretary of the TUC and Andy Meadows, Group HR Director of the rail operator Abellio.

I very much hope that these talks will lead to a settlement of the current dispute. We don't intend to say anything further about all of this, to allow the talks to proceed in the best possible way and I would encourage everybody to do the same.

**Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**