

Mr M Cash
General Secretary RMT
Unity House
39 Chalton Street
London, NW1 1JD

20 March 2017

Dear Mick

Thank you for your letters of 17 March.

It's disappointing that you are now threatening a 31st day of strike action on 4 April. Over the past year we have met with the RMT countless times to try and settle your dispute. Unfortunately, each time has ended in disappointment.

In your press statement on Friday you state that you are now ready to have 'genuine and meaningful' discussions to end your dispute and that you would be willing to call off your proposed strike on 4 April in return for a "firm date for talks" to take place between us.

Our passengers, staff and the regional economy want certainty and an end to your industrial action, not a 24 hour truce.

We would respectfully request, for the benefit of all, that you go further than calling off just the 4 April strike and now commit to suspending your industrial action on Southern to enable constructive talks aimed at finding a negotiated solution.

If you do, I confirm we would be willing to meet with union officials for face to face talks on Tuesday 4 April with the aim of reaching settlement with you.

As you know, we have been able to run 90% of our normal service on each of the last two RMT strike days with over half of conductors and OBS staff signing on to work.

I hope you will now commit to suspend your industrial action so that we can meet on 4 April to try and reach agreement and bring an end to your dispute for the benefit of passengers, our staff and your members.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Charles Horton
Chief Executive Officer