Transport for London

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Dear Mr Parr

Southern Railway

Dear Mr Parr

Thank you for your letter to Mike Brown regarding the impact of the ongoing Southern Railway industrial dispute on UCL staff and students. I have been asked to respond on his behalf. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I am acutely aware of the disruption that this dispute has been causing, and while I sympathise with passengers for the misery they have had to endure, I am afraid that TfL has no remit over Southern Railway. These services are the responsibility of the UK Government, so, as with you, I can make no comment on the particular issues other than to encourage those involved to reach a resolution as quickly as possible.

I would like to reassure you however that the transport services under our control, for example, London Buses, London Underground, London Overground and the Tram network, have been doing everything they can to keep London moving on days when Southern Railway services are disrupted.

You may be aware that we have made proposals for the Mayor and TfL to become responsible, in the medium term, for more suburban rail services in London, including some services that are currently operated by Southern Railway. We recently published a business case for this transfer which is available on our website, setting out the benefits it would bring. Unfortunately, however, those proposals were recently turned down by Government, although we will continue to make the case.
In the short term, the Mayor has also offered TfL's assistance to Southern Railway's management as a temporary measure to help turn the current situation around and get things back on track. That offer has also not been accepted by Government, although we stand ready to act should it change its mind.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Leon Daniels
Managing Director – Surface Transport