



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Our Ref: SO28490

17 June 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you to urgently request an explanation as to why there has been no meetings between Government Ministers and officials at the RMT union since 13 May 2022.

The planned industrial action next week will see disruption to our rail network not seen in decades, and will force millions of Britons to miss school, work, or hard-earned holidays.

The first duty of the Transport Secretary is to keep the country moving, yet if this action occurs, you will have failed at this task. I am therefore perplexed to find that it has been over 35 days since you, or your Ministers, have met with union officials in an effort to prevent these strikes from occurring.

We have already seen our airports become scenes of chaos, and now your refusal to act will condemn rail passengers to the same fate. These strikes have become your personal responsibility.

I would be grateful if you could explain what actions you have taken to try to stop these strikes and what more you propose to do over the next few days. Fare paying passengers who rely on these services deserve better than this from the Government.

Kind regards,

Sarah Olney
Member of Parliament for Richmond Park
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Transport