

HEAD OFFICE
9-10 EASTWAY BUSINESS VILLAGE
OLIVERS PLACE, FULWOOD
PRESTON, PR2 9WT

T +44 (0)1772 653 000
F +44 (0)1772 655 544

FYLDE COAST OFFICE
1-2 LOCKHEED COURT
AMY JOHNSON WAY
BLACKPOOL, FY4 2RN

T +44 (0)1253 347 063
F +44 (0)1772 655 544

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND NO.145454
VAT NUMBER: 154 2675 62



INFO@LANCSCHAMBER.CO.UK
WWW.LANCSCHAMBER.CO.UK

14th November 2018

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP
Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State

I write to you with some considerable anger and frustration at the ongoing industrial dispute between Northern Rail and the RMT Union. As I am sure you are aware, RMT members have been staging one-day strikes on Saturday since September, which were due to finish on November 10.

However, they have now announced extra dates running from November 17 to December 29 – all of which are Saturdays. This will have a significant impact on routes between towns and cities across our region in the run up to Christmas – and we are extremely concerned about the potential damage this could have on town centre businesses who have already endured a difficult year. The strikes are not just damaging for trade but also impact on people getting to work, causing misery for employers and employees alike.

Frankly, we are not particularly interested in the rights and wrongs of the dispute. What we need is an immediate resolution to this protracted saga and we urge you to exert all of your influence on the parties involved to bring about a solution.

This Saturday (17th November) will be the 13th consecutive Saturday of RMT strike action in a dispute which has been running for almost 2 years, a situation which we find unacceptable. The strikes have already tainted the region's image with visitors having their travel plans disrupted when attending major events such as the Open Golf and the Grand National. How much longer must it continue?

Yours sincerely

Babs Murphy
Chief Executive