

Nick Timothy, Member of Parliament for West Suffolk



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1A 0AA

April 2026

Dear Mr Beable

Thank you for meeting me in Parliament on 7 January. I was grateful for the constructive discussion, and I welcome your confirmation that from next month, two additional peak services between Cambridge and Ipswich will stop at Newmarket and Kennett. This is a positive step forward, and I appreciate the constructive relationship we have established.

I am writing to follow up on several outstanding issues.

Line speeds: I was disappointed that, seven years on from my predecessor's letter to GA, there has been no serious investigation into what is required to increase line speed on this route. Network Rail must be part of this conversation – only they can give an authoritative assessment of what is needed. I would be grateful if you could keep me informed of progress in engaging them on this question.

Short trains: Residents who use the train regularly note that deployment of three-coach trains in place of the scheduled four coaches has been significant. During approximately the summer of 2025, 25 per cent of peak trains ran with three coaches; in November and December, between 15 and 20 per cent. I assume that GA collects this data given its importance in reflecting passenger experience. I would be grateful if you could confirm the performance for the first quarter of this year. With overcrowding a major problem affecting rail users' daily experience of the service, what action is being taken to ensure that more four coach trains are being deployed?

Kennett services: I understand it is already possible for all westbound trains to stop at Kennett. I ask why this cannot be extended to the remaining westbound services, and whether improvements in both directions might be achievable. The precedent is already established with extra trains westbound in the evening. Even a partial improvement would be a meaningful benefit to passengers and to revenue.

Peak service overcrowding: At our meeting, you mentioned additional action alongside British Transport Police officers to enforce the no-cycles policy on Cambridge-bound morning peak services. Could you please provide a report on the outcome? Unfortunately, bicycles are still appearing on the 7.56am (Newmarket) train contrary to your policy and so the exercise needs to be repeated.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Timothy".

Nick Timothy
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