



NORTHERN

*Go do your thing*

Tom Morrison MP

**[BY EMAIL]** tom.morrison.mp@parliament.uk

27 November 2024

First Floor 1B  
George Stephenson House  
Toft Green  
York  
YO1 6JT

tricia.williams@northernrailway.co.uk

Dear Tom

## **Re: Sunday services on the Manchester Piccadilly to Stoke-on-Trent line**

Thank you for recent letter detailing your concern over the lack of recent Sunday services at Bramhall and reduced services at Cheadle Hulme. I fully appreciate the impact this is having in the Cheadle area and beyond and would like to explain a little further what we are doing to address these issues.

Due to historic agreements which pre-date the current Northern business, Sunday rosters fall outside of the working week for 95% of conductors in the North West and the service has suffered from what is essentially a “volunteer Sunday railway”. In recent weeks, the number of conductors available to operate the Sunday timetable has not been sufficient to cover all our services resulting in a removal of some trains from our plan.

Workforce reform has therefore long been required to bring about a contractual commitment for Sunday working, and while this is not solely within our control, we have been actively pursuing all available routes to address it, including working with our trade union colleagues and Rail North Partnership.

Following a series of negotiations considering a number of different proposals, Northern and our Conductor Employee Council, have recently reached an agreement in principle for future conductor remuneration and working arrangements on Sundays. This has now been put to a referendum ahead of a planned implementation from 28 November 2024. If this referendum is accepted the agreement will be in place for a period of four months whilst more detailed discussions take place regarding a permanent arrangement to provide terms and conditions which will help with the aim of securing a robust service delivery, every day of the week.

This interim arrangement will lead to a significant reduction in planned cancellations on Sundays resulting in improved train service reliability for our customers across the North West. I am sure you will welcome this progress, and my team will communicate with you further on this subject when the results of the referendum are known.

[www.northernrailway.co.uk](http://www.northernrailway.co.uk)

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

GEORGE STEPHENSON HOUSE, TOFT GREEN, YORK, ENGLAND YO1 6JT

Company No. 03076444

Thank you again for getting in touch and should you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Tricia Williams**  
Managing Director