



Nicolas Petrovic
CEO

Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Kent County Council, County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

London, 3 March 2017

Dear Matthew,

The resignalling project in Ashford International has been progressing well in recent months thanks to the high level of engagement and cooperation between all partners, for which I am grateful. As things stand, and despite the project's complexity, the funding is secured, the technical work clearly laid out, and we are looking at project completion being delivered by February 2018.

This is a testimony to everyone's efforts and commitment. Ashford International is an important station to Eurostar, and despite the significant commercial and operational challenge this represents, we have agreed to keep some of our original rolling stock on the Paris route in 2017. Last month, I personally agreed to the further continuation of the direct service between Ashford and Paris until the end of February 2018, at which point the Ashford Spurs project is expected to be completed. In parallel, our teams are working closely with Network Rail and making good progress on the Route Clearance and Vehicle Acceptance work streams, to make sure these processes are completed in time.

Once the upgrade of the signalling and the Route Clearance and Vehicle Acceptance are finalised, I would like to reaffirm that we will use our new e320 rolling stock through Ashford and re-instate the level of services to Paris that used to exist until December 2016. Similarly, we plan to continue operating between Ashford and Brussels, Disneyland Paris and the French Alps, all of which will be facilitated by the Ashford spurs works.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the recent introduction of services to the South of France from Ashford International, and to the fact that Eurostar is in the early stages of agreeing a new Track Access Agreement with Network Rail for use of Ashford International station. This contract will start in December, 2017 for an anticipated duration of five years, which is the maximum term permitted for such contracts. I believe both developments demonstrate our longer-term commitment to running services from the station, and expanding them where we believe there is a market.

I hope the above will reassure you about our strong commitment to making the signalling upgrade a success, so that Eurostar - or any train operating company wishing to enter the cross-channel market - can serve Ashford in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Nicolas Petrovic

Eurostar International Ltd
Times House, Bravingtons Walk
London N1 9AW
eurostar.com