



Department
for Transport

Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State.
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Dear Mr Fallon,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February, about the introduction of longer trains for Cannon Street services and extending the Oyster card system to Sevenoaks.

I am happy to confirm that Southeastern recently increased capacity on some services from Cannon Street to Sevenoaks, and details of these can be found on their website¹. Southeastern continue to look into increasing capacity where possible.

With regard to Oyster, the zonal map for National Rail and London Underground stations forms a part of the London Travelcard Agreement between the Train Operating Companies and Transport for London. Any changes to this zonal map have to firstly be agreed by the parties to that agreement, before being put before the Secretary of State to approve or reject the proposed amendment to the zones.

In the first instance it would be for the relevant station operator to consider the merits of such a proposal, and were it something that they support, to follow the process for such changes as I have set out above. Any proposal put before the Secretary of State would need to demonstrate that it is both affordable to Government and provides value for money for taxpayers.

In the meantime, the Department is working with Train Operators to roll-out smart ticketing on national rail in the Southeast which will provide all of the benefits of Oyster but with more functionality, as national rail fares outside of

¹ <http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/your-journey/timetables/march-service-changes/>

London have a broader range of products which the Öyster card cannot support.

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