

PETER ALDOUS MP
(WAVENEY)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21 May 2015

Ms Claire Perry MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department of Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Ms Claire,

Oulton Broad North Railway Station Level Crossing

This is a matter about which I corresponded in the last Parliament with yourself, Stephen Hammond and Baroness Kramer.

The railway station at Oulton Broad North is located on a busy road and whenever the barriers are down and trains are either approaching or sitting in the station there is a significant build-up of traffic which takes a long time to clear, bringing the surrounding roads to a standstill. Not only is this congestion extremely frustrating for motorists, but it leads to a loss of revenue for local businesses and is a disincentive to attracting investment to the area.

Along with the Lowestoft and Waveney Chamber of Commerce, Suffolk County Council and Waveney District Council I have been in discussions with Network Rail for the last 18 months to find a solution. This has involved much correspondence with them, meetings on site, at their offices in Stratford and with both Stephen Hammond and Baroness Kramer at your Horseferry Road offices.

Ultimately an agreement was reached to address the problem which includes extending the platform at the station and installing a new stop board at the time that the line is re-signalled.

It is important that this work is carried out as soon as possible so as to reduce the disruption to motorists and businesses. After there had been some time slippage Network Rail assured me that it would be completed by October 2016. This was confirmed by Richard Schofield, the Route Managing Director (Anglia), in his letter to Baroness Kramer of 17 February 2015. I had met her the previous month to update her on the project and I had requested that she sought this reassurance in view of the importance of the work.

I was thus very disappointed to read a report in the local press that the work could be delayed until 2018.

Continued . . . / I have now



I have now written to Network Rail requesting that they do all that they can to ensure that the work is carried out by October 2016. I would be grateful if you would ask them to do this and if necessary look at other means of solving the problem. It is very disappointing that two months after providing an assurance to a Government Minister that the work would be completed by a specific date Network Rail are now saying that there may be a two year delay. This is not helpful in seeking to attract new business to the area.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Aldous
Member of Parliament for Waveney

Copy: Mr Richard Schofield
Network Rail Route Managing Director (Anglia)