



**Satvir Kaur MP**  
Member of Parliament for Southampton Test  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Jeremy Westlake, Chief Executive  
Network Rail  
Waterloo General Office  
London  
SE1 8SW

14 April 2026

Dear Jeremy,

**Re: Rail replacement service on 25 April - FA Cup Semi-Final day at Wembley**

We are writing jointly to raise urgent concerns regarding the planned rail replacement service between Basingstoke and Woking on Saturday 25 April, which will significantly impact travel for Southampton Football Club supporters attending the Emirates FA Cup Semi-Final at Wembley Stadium.

On Saturday 25th April, Southampton FC will face Manchester City in a 5:15pm kick-off at Wembley. The Club has been allocated over 33,000 tickets, with supporters travelling predominantly from Southampton and surrounding areas. The rail route via Basingstoke is the main and most heavily relied upon connection into London for these journeys.

The planned closure of this section of line, with buses replacing trains, will cause severe disruption - substantially increasing journey times, and creating significant logistical challenges that risk preventing many supporters from attending the match altogether.

This semi-final is a hugely significant moment for us in Southampton. Opportunities like this are rare, and it is vital that all Saints supporters can travel safely, efficiently, and reliably to support our team.

We understand that essential maintenance and upgrades need to take place. However, given the scale and significance of this event, we request these works be postponed or rescheduled so they do not fall on the same day as the fixture.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and to work collaboratively to find a practical solution.

Yours sincerely,

**Satvir Kaur – Member of Parliament for Southampton Test**

**Phil Parsons – Chief Executive of Southampton Football Club**

**Cllr Alex Winning – Leader of Southampton City Council**