



The Rt. Hon. John Redwood MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: ATJRCW002

31 August 2016

Dear Mr. Redwood,

Train horns – Action taken to cover whistle boards

Thank you for your letter of 5 August to Network Rail Chief Executive Mark Carne regarding your constituent's concerns about train drivers sounding their horns on the railway line by Oakey Drive. This is an issue for the Wessex Route and your letter was passed to me so I could reply to you directly.

We are committed to improving our relationship with lineside neighbours and I am sorry to hear that on this occasion attempts by your constituents to pursue this issue have not been dealt with. Network Rail staff have now covered the whistle boards instructing drivers to sound their horns on the railway line approaches to the closed Tan House footpath level crossing by Oakey Drive. Attached are photographs showing the whistle boards before and after covers were applied, which were taken on 23 August.

South West Trains has been notified about this action and it sent an internal communication on 24 August to all its drivers to update them that they are no longer required to routinely sound their horns at the whistle boards. Please note that it may take a number of weeks for drivers to become familiar with the change and some may continue to sound their horns in the meantime. Further, normal rules regarding sounding horns to anyone on or near the railway line will continue to apply.

Thank you again for drawing this to our attention and as ever if there is anything else please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart Kistruck", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Stuart Kistruck
Acting Route Managing Director for Wessex

