

South Western Railway
Timetable Feedback
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please reply to:
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For the attention of Mr Andy Mellors

www.southwesternrailway.com/consultation

21st December 2019

Dear Sir

**Proposed amendments to some late night & early morning services
from December 2020**

Thank you for inviting us to contribute to your consultation on proposals to amend your timetables with effect from December 2020.

We are disappointed that better, more efficient ways of carrying out maintenance and minor renewals were not adopted despite considerable external pressure for new equipment, improving the time taken for the taking and giving back of possessions and the carrying out of electrical isolations. For a multiple track section, like that approaching Waterloo, it should be possible to close only two tracks at a time for maintenance. This issue was looked at in depth probably 10 years ago before the start of Control Period 5. More recently we also saw the introduction by Network Rail of self-contained mobile trains built by Robel but have seen little use of them in our region.

With such a backlog of work to be done, somewhat reluctantly we accept your proposals and support them in the hope that the number of temporary speed restrictions due to emergency defects such as wet beds, failed insulated fishplates and fractured rails show a substantial reduction within 2 years of the introduction of the revised timetable. We note that the reduction in services applies to Mondays to Thursdays and that slightly later services will be provided on Fridays and Saturdays. We welcome this.

We still want to see Network Rail looking for and introducing better systems and equipment so that the rail network can run a reliable service with even higher volumes of traffic needed to run on this complex system.

Yours sincerely

David Brace
Railfuture
Wessex and London & SE branches

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk