



Monica Harding MP
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Lawrence Bowman,
Managing Director, South Western Railway,
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23 June 2026

Dear Lawrence,

Re: Hersham Station Refurbishment

Thank you for your recent letter in response to my queries about the plans for Hersham Station. I appreciate your acknowledgement that the station remains under active consideration for investment during the next Control Period between 2029 to 2034.

In the report stage of the Railways Bill in the House of Commons two weeks ago, I raised the condition of the station again and the concerns that continue to be expressed by my constituents, including the message it sends out to my community who contribute so much to our nation's growth and prosperity.

As you will be aware, Hersham serves around 700,000 passengers each year and is on the mainline in and out of Waterloo, on one of the busiest rail corridors in the country. Esher and Walton is the single biggest contributor to the exchequer of any constituency outside of London. Every day, constituents who are growing the economy, use it on their commute to create the growth we so vitally need.

But the station is in a shocking state of repair and is an eyesore in our community.

It sits beneath exposed corrugated iron roofing that has long outlived any reasonable lifespan, mould spreads along the fence lines, paintwork is peeling, the stairs are rickety and visibly move underfoot, with gaps to the ground beneath; needless to say, there is no step free access. Both platforms were constructed in the 1960s using materials that were only ever intended as a temporary measure. More than half a century later, that supposedly short-term fix remains in place, and my constituents stand on it every day. Passengers have put their foot through the platform. The site around the corrugated roof is filled with weeds and undergrowth.

This is not just a matter of cosmetic upkeep but of a structure that has been left to deteriorate for decades beyond its intended life. It sends an appalling message to my constituents who contribute so much to the exchequer that they cannot be afforded an accessible, safe, well-kept station which matches their ambition for the country. I know you share my view that the station is not in keeping with your vision for SWR, as you expressed when you accepted my invitation to see it for yourself.

Therefore, I would be grateful if you could set out what concrete steps you intend to take, and on what timetable, to finally resolve this.



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Since writing the above, I have been pleased to receive an update from Network Rail that engineers have recently replaced 42 platform boards across both platforms and carried out additional structural repairs beneath the platform surface, and I welcome this progress. However, this work only underscores how much remains to be done, and the need for a long-term solution remains urgent.

While I recognise the pressures on investment budgets, I am concerned by the lack of a clear timetable for Hersham and 2034 is a long time away. Your letter notes that a programme of works to the access stairwells and platforms is being evaluated for the next Control Period, but that funding has not yet been confirmed. Given the scale of concern locally, I would be grateful if you could provide further detail on the process and criteria being used to assess the station, and whether any indicative timeline exists for a decision to be reached and whether this can be expedited.

I welcome the recent updates on interim measures that are taking place and please let me know what further work is being planned to improve the station environment while longer-term investment decisions are being considered. Many constituents feel that, regardless of larger refurbishment plans, there are improvements that could and should be made in the short term.

Thank you for your continuing engagement with Esher and Walton and the work that you have already taken to repair the canopies at Hampton Court, and the timetabling changes which have made a huge and positive difference to many school student's commute to school. I hope we may be able to celebrate a new Hersham station too.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Monica Harding MP

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