

Andy McDonald response to Southern Rail fine

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McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, responding to the fine given to Southern Rail today, said:

"It has taken over a year for the Transport Secretary to reach this decision. Long-suffering passengers should not have to resort to crowdfunding for legal action to seek accountability, and the Secretary of State should not have to be dragged kicking and screaming by the High Court to do the job he was appointed to do.

"Today's fine is small change compared with the £1.2 billion Govia is paid to run passenger services and, with crucial parts of the Gibb report redacted and a lack of detail on today's decision, the management of the Southern rail fiasco continues to lack transparency.

"Ultimately, the buck stops with the Government. Tory ministers, who designed and awarded the franchise, have been ducking their responsibility for Southern's abysmal service and for directing this unnecessary industrial dispute.

"A Labour government would stand up for the interests of passengers rather than train companies, taking Southern back into public ownership and creating a new body to have strategic oversight for the railway to end the chaos and fragmentation that has plagued Southern."