

# There's no need for the Government to prolong the suffering of Southern passengers any longer – Andy McDonald

**Andy McDonald MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary**, responding to reports that the Government is considering taking direct control of Govia Thameslink, said:

"Reports suggest that the Government is finally recognising what Labour has been saying for over a year: that Southern is failing passengers and taxpayers and should be stripped of their franchise.

"It is wrong that passenger fares and taxpayer subsidy that should be used to improve services and hold down prices are siphoned off to fill the coffers of train operating companies who are providing a disgraceful service.

"There's no need for the Government to prolong the suffering of Southern passengers any longer. Private rail isn't working: it's time for the Tories to admit defeat and take Southern back under public control as a public service."