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Graham Stockbridge
Market Lead, South West and London
Passenger Services, Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

13 April 2021

Dear Graham,

[REDACTED]

Following previous correspondence and meetings we were asked to make a proposal regarding the withdrawal of SWR services to Bristol Temple Meads as a standalone proposal.

The table below shows a list of services SWR propose to remove from the timetable in December 2021.

SWR Services	Operating in May 21 timetable?	Covid Operation
Monday to Friday		
0640 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	No	Not operated since Dec 2020
1052 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	No	Not operated since March 2020
1352 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	Did not operate March-Dec 2020
-1801 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	
2057 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	Did not operate March-Dec 2020
0849 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	No	Not operated since Dec 2020

1249 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	No	Not operated since March 2020
1549 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	Yes	Did not operate March-Dec 2020
1935 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	Yes	
2223 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	Yes	Did not operate March-Dec 2020
Saturday		
0640 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	
1052 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	
1352 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	
1755 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	No	Not operated since Dec 2020
2057 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	
0849 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	Yes	
1249 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	Yes	
1549 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	Yes	
1935 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	No	Not operated since Dec 2020
2223 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	Yes	
Sunday		
1055 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	
1355 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	
1955 Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads	Yes	
1304 Bristol Temple Meads to Salisbury	Yes	

Withdrawal of these services would allow the removal of route knowledge between Westbury and Bristol from both Drivers and Guards at both Salisbury and Yeovil Traincrew Depots. Given the limited number of trips this route knowledge is difficult and expensive to maintain, sometimes relying on rest day work. At least one Drivers and Guards turn would be saved each week day. Furthermore, there would be a reduction in fleet and fuel miles with an approximate value of █████ p.a. as well as the avoidance of rail replacement services when engineering work applies. I am also aware that Northern Rail have enquired about the availability of Diesel trains and we also could consider released units for the start up of the Waterside Line.

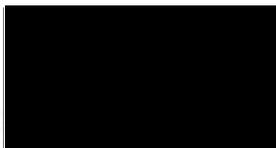
The likely total saving is projected to be in the region of █████ p.a. (some of which is in future costs avoided rather than savings from our current costs).

We've carefully considered the passenger impact of this proposal. GWR services between Salisbury and Bristol have been lengthened in recent years following the introduction of 5 car trains and turbo rolling stock. Further developments on this corridor are planned through Metro West and other schemes and given projected customer numbers there is little commercial need for SWR services which do not provide part of the regular clockface service on that route.

On the core route between Salisbury and Bristol alternative GWR services are provided at similar times (full details in appendix 1) mitigating the removal of these services. Through journey opportunities from stations east of Salisbury to those north of Westbury will be removed; however, good connections and alternative services are available for passengers. SWR will continue to operate services between Salisbury and Yeovil (via Westbury to retain route knowledge for diversionary purposes) and these will continue to provide some direct trains from east of Salisbury to Warminster and Westbury.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, I am happy to discuss these further with you.

Best regards.



Appendix 1;

Services withdrawn and alternative services available to passengers

Service	Day	Mitigation
0640 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SX	Alternative at 0634 from Salisbury to Westbury connecting with 0720 Westbury to Bristol. GWR will operate this as a 5-car turbo replacing commuter capacity to Bristol and Bath lost by the withdrawal of this service. This was a planned move owing to limited stabling capacity in the Bristol area
1052 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SX	Alternative GWR services to Bristol runs 10 minutes in front of this service from Salisbury at 10.42 or 20 minutes after this service from Salisbury at 11.12
1352 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SX	Alternative GWR service to Bristol runs 10 minutes in front of this service from Salisbury at 13.42
1801 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SX	Alternative GWR services run from Salisbury to Bristol at 17.42 and 18.42. Note from Warminster to Bristol a GWR service duplicates the SWR service within 5 minutes (18.15 Warminster to Bristol Parkway)
2057 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SX	Alternative GWR services run from Salisbury to Bristol at 20.42 and 21.42
0849 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SX	Alternative GWR services run from Bristol to Salisbury at 08.22 and 09.22. For stations Bristol to Westbury a duplicate GWR service runs at 08.40 from Bristol
1249 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SX	Alternative GWR service runs 10 minutes in front of this service from Bristol to Salisbury at 12.40
1550 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SX	Dec 2021 GWR T/T sees the 15.44 Bristol to Westbury service (which the SWR service duplicates between Bristol and Westbury) extended on to Salisbury and The South Coast
1935 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SX	Alternative GWR service runs 10 minutes in front of this service from Bristol to Salisbury at 19.24
2225 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SX	Dec 2021 GWR T/T sees the 21.30 Cardiff to Bristol service extended to Westbury (for stabling reasons), this service would duplicate the SWR service between Bristol and Westbury. The proposal is the GWR service would take over the path of the current SWR service leaving Bristol at 22.25 as far as Westbury. At Westbury a cross-platform interchange would be provided into a SWR service to Salisbury (the 21.42 Castle Cary to Salisbury service re-timed later)
0640 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SO	This service was very lightly used on Saturday mornings Alternative GWR services from Salisbury to Bristol depart at 06.08 and 07.07
1052 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SO	Alternative GWR services to Bristol runs 10 minutes in front of this service from Salisbury at 10.42 or 20 minutes after this service from Salisbury at 11.12
1352 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SO	Alternative GWR service to Bristol runs 10 minutes in front of this service from Salisbury at 13.42
1801 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SO	Alternative GWR services run from Salisbury to Bristol at 17.42 and 18.42.
2057 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SO	Alternative GWR services run from Salisbury to Bristol at 20.42 and 21.42
0850 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SO	Alternative GWR services run from Bristol to Salisbury at 08.22 and 09.22. For stations Bristol to Westbury a duplicate GWR service runs at 08.40 from Bristol

1250 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SO	Alternative GWR service runs 10 minutes in front of this service from Bristol to Salisbury at 12.40
1550 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SO	Dec 2021 GWR T/T sees the 15.40 Bristol to Westbury service (which the SWR service duplicates between Bristol and Westbury) extended on to Salisbury and The South Coast
1935 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SO	Alternative GWR service runs 13 minutes in front of this service from Bristol to Salisbury at 19.22
2223 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SO	GWR currently operate a 22.03 Bristol to Westbury service, this will be-retimed 10 minutes later with SWR providing a connection at Westbury for Salisbury similar to the SX plan.
1052 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SuO	Dec 2021 GWR T/T sees a new 10.08 Portsmouth to Cardiff service introduced, this will provide alternative services from Salisbury to Bristol at 10.26 and 11.26 providing an improved spacing of services.
1355 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SuO	Dec 2021 GWR T/T sees a new 11.46 Brighton to Bristol service introduced; this will provide an alternative service from Salisbury to Bristol at around 14.00 just a few minutes later
1955 Salisbury to Bristol TM	SuO	Alternative GWR service to Bristol runs 6 minutes behind this service from Salisbury at 20.01
1304 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SuO	Alternative GWR service runs 6 minutes behind this service from Bristol to Salisbury at 13.10
1604 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SuO	Alternative GWR service runs 6 minutes behind this service from Bristol to Salisbury at 16.10
2135 Bristol TM to Salisbury	SuO	Alternative GWR service runs 10 minutes in front of this service from Bristol to Salisbury at 21.25