

**Gerry Leighton**  
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31 July 2014

**Your reference: RFTB/020/001/023/jfk**

Simon Feast  
Fares & Passenger Benefits Manager  
Rail Executive  
Department for Transport  
Zone 3/15, Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Mr Feast

**Folkestone Harbour branch line and station – Department for Transport request for ratification of closure**

- 1) I am writing further to your letter of 29 May 2014 requesting ratification of the proposal to close Folkestone Harbour branch line and station.
- 2) Please find enclosed a notice ratifying the closure of Folkestone Harbour branch line and station. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), under the power granted in s.32(9)(b) of the Railways Act 2005 (“the Act”), requires Network Rail to display the ratification notice at Folkestone Harbour station for a period of 4 weeks following the date of the notice.
- 3) The notice also requires the operator of stations in the area affected by the closure - Folkestone Central, Folkestone West and Sandling stations - to display a copy of the closure ratification notice at those stations for a period of 4 weeks following the date of the notice. I have written separately to London & South Eastern Railway Limited regarding this requirement.
- 4) I will today send a copy of the closure ratification notice to Network Rail, the operator of the other stations and to all the parties consulted by DfT. A copy of the notice will also appear on ORR’s website and will be placed on ORR’s public register.
- 5) In deciding whether to ratify this proposed closure, ORR has checked and confirms that DfT has:



- a) provided ORR with the appropriate documentation;
  - b) followed the consultation requirements laid down in the Act, and by the Railways Closure Guidance issued by the Secretary of State on 18 October 2006;
  - c) reasonably applied the criteria for appraising such proposals, as laid out in the Railways Closure Guidance; and
  - d) concluded that the proposal represents good value for money, and that this conclusion is reasonable.
- 6) During the process of considering ratification, the proposal was posted on ORR's website. We received representations from Network Rail, from two local residents and from the Remembrance Line Association. We have replied to those parties separately.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Leighton', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

**Gerry Leighton**