David Horne
LNER
East Coast House
25 Skeldergate, York
North Yorkshire
Y01 6DH

(sent via email david.horne@lner.co.uk)

24 August 2022

Dear David,

Dispute Resolution

I am writing to you to express my serious concern at the lack of meaningful negotiations aimed at resolving our dispute over pay, jobs and conditions of service.

There have been no formal talks between any Train Operating Company, including yours, and TSSA to find a way forward that provides a fair deal for rail workers and enables our industry to recover and grow again. This cannot be in the best interests of passengers, freight users, railway employers or workers.

We will not find a resolution if we don't sit down and talk reasonably about what a suitable resolution looks like. We have an agreed collective bargaining procedure in order to meaningfully negotiate around pay and conditions of service. We have an agreed dispute resolution mechanism. It is extremely frustrating that LNER refuses to comply with these long-established means of resolving issues between workers and their employer.
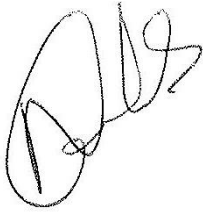
I hope that you would agree with me that your employees are entitled to a fair cost of living increase, job security, and an assurance that you won't engage in fire and re-hire or any other unilateral changes to terms and conditions. We are ready and willing to meet to discuss how we can jointly agree how this can be made possible.

Quite frankly, doing nothing in this situation is not helpful. An active response from industry leaders, such as yourself, may be the push that is needed to resolve the dispute. I ask you candidly to gain whatever mandate is required from the DfT to enter into meaningful negotiations and put an end to this dispute.

We will gladly work with you to develop something that resolves the dispute and supports first rate services for rail users. To do that, we need to get around the table and reason together.

I look forward to your earliest possible response.

Yours sincerely,

Manuel Cortes

General Secretary