



Rt Hon Sir Roger Gale MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sam Chessex
Network Rail
27 Great Suffolk Street
London
SE1 0NS

23 August 2019

Dear Sir Roger,

Thank you for getting in touch with our chief executive, Andrew Haines, about the Herne Bay Access for All scheme. I am replying as Interim managing director, with responsibility for the railway in your constituency whilst John Halsall is on annual leave.

As you rightly stated in your original letter, Herne Bay was chosen by the Department for Transport to receive funding for accessibility improvements during Network Rail's five-year funding period, from April 2019 – March 2024.

Since the DfT announcement in April, our teams have been working hard to design a solution for Herne Bay station and ten other stations in the Southern region, which have also been selected for funding.

Depending on the station layout and history of development at certain stations, these schemes can be complicated. However, I'm happy to say that Herne Bay is a relatively straightforward scheme. It takes roughly a year to develop and design a scheme of this nature, as we need to appoint a design contractor, survey the station and establish the best approach to take, for example where to locate lifts and other potential new infrastructure.

Once the most viable option is identified, we then draw up a more detailed design before submitting a planning application and engaging with the local council to make sure our plans match the aspirations of the community and are sympathetic to the heritage of the area.

If we receive approval from the council and the DfT, then we can begin delivering the improvements, which for a scheme like Herne Bay's generally takes around nine months. Therefore, we estimate the station will be fully accessible by late 2021.



We do, of course, work as quickly as we can so that we can deliver the improvements to passengers as soon as possible.

I hope this information is useful. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Chessex". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Sam Chessex
Interim Managing Director Southern Region