

Rt Hon Theresa May MP.
The Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street.
London.
SW1A 2AA

5 September 2016

Avoid losing Conservative votes and public respect with the current HS2 debt control plan

Dear Prime Minister,

We wish to draw your attention to the fact that HS2 would prevent the nation from obtaining important general improvements. This would guarantee that the conservative party will lose millions of votes throughout London, England and Wales.

Much needed house-building, flood protection, renewable non-fossil energy, health and schools are of far greater direct benefit to the wider economy in which we all share. The final costs of HS2 are unknown, as no proper surveys were undertaken for budgets, nor adequate compensation included.

There is a clear tension between the Brexit-voting population and Parliament. Central Londoners will now be asked to live with greatly increased pollution and dust levels, noisy construction 24/7, daily travel congestion, diversions and accidents, for at least 17 years; and without any compensation whatsoever in Camden and Park Royal. This has impacted voting, and will do so more tellingly in the next election.

The Euston and Park Royal plans both demonstrate that HS2's ground and space claims are hugely detrimental to their environments, with little demonstrable public benefit.

We believe the great transport planners of the past, Brunel and Buchanan, would not have supported the current HS2 plan, for many reasons; and we do not support it either.

Our opinion, as stated above, is shared by millions of people in the United Kingdom. Before the HS2 bill goes to Royal Assent, and while there is still time, will you please show clear, rational leadership, and postpone the scheme to enable changes, which will also ease future debt and borrowing, to help manage the budgets, and the nation's broader needs.


Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Primavera Boman

We agree with Ms Boman's letter on Page 1.

Signed by:

Christie J Stratford
Marian Maher

Dine McKean
(Patrick Wright & Mitchell Fries)
ONEB
Faulme Paucher
Dr. Arnold Pencher, OBE
Dermot O'Leary
Sir Jonathan Mills CBE
Hugh Keenan
Costas Cleuthous
Norma Taylor
Jo Arnold
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From The Direct Communications Unit

29 September 2016

Ms Primavera Boman-Behram
27 Oval Road
Regents Park
London
NW1 7EA

Dear Ms Boman-Behram

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 5 September.

Mrs May very much appreciates the time you have taken to write to her.

As the Department for Transport has responsibility for the matters you raise, I am forwarding your letter to them so that they are aware of your views.

Thank you, once again, for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Williams'.

Correspondence Officer



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/df

Our Ref: 178035
Your Ref:

31 October 2016

Primavera Boman-Behram
27 Oval Road
Regents Park
London
NW1 7EA

Dear Ms Boman-Behram,

Thank you for your letter of 5 September 2016 to the Prime Minister about High Speed Two (HS2). As your letter raises transport issues it has been passed to this Department for reply.

I note that you have previously contacted the Department about HS2, and while I can appreciate the concerns you and your fellow signees have raised, I have to reiterate the points made in previous replies to you (our refs: 160391 and 171471).

The Government is committed to delivering HS2 which remains absolutely on track, with strong cross-party support. The Government believes that HS2 will become the backbone of our national rail network and help us build an economy that works for all. Good rail links bring our country closer together, make it easier for people to get on and drive economic growth. That is why the Government is heavily investing in transport infrastructure, such as HS2, across the country.

HS2 will create more seats for passengers on our crowded railways and better connect our cities, supporting growth and regeneration. This will generate thousands of jobs.

As you are aware, the National Audit Office has found that the strategic case for HS2 has been made, the project is making good progress and that we are on course to gain the powers needed to start building the railway by the end of this year.

HS2 will bring over £60 billion of benefits to transport users and £14 billion of wider benefits – delivering more than £2.20 of benefits for every £1 of investment. This represents good value for money and is in line with other

major rail schemes. Extensive sensitivity testing has been a feature of HS2 analysis and has given the Government good confidence that the scheme represents good value for money.

With regard to the environmental impacts of constructing HS2, the Government recognises that the project will cause substantial changes to the surrounding environment and these may have consequences for the people who live and work there. Therefore, during the planning and design process for HS2, such changes have been considered as part of the environmental assessment process and measures have been incorporated into the proposed scheme to avoid or reduce them.

Environmental mitigation is something that has been considered from the very beginning of the project meaning that reducing environmental effects is hard-wired into the railway; as mentioned in our letter to you of 31 August (171391) contractors working on HS2's construction will be required to comply with the Code of Construction Practice, and the Government is committed to working with communities and local authorities to mitigate the impacts of construction.

With regard to Euston, the Government is working with the London Borough of Camden, Transport for London and the Greater London Authority to, as much as possible, ensure that the HS2 Station and Over Site Development opportunities support the long-term vision for Euston Station, and the local area plan's aspiration for growth and regeneration. The Government is engaged with the local community in Euston, their elected representatives and the rail industry to understand and minimise the impact of the HS2 works at Euston.

With regard to the Old Old Common/Park Royal area, this will be transformed into a transport super-hub with the arrival of HS2 and Crossrail. This development provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to regenerate the area which has the potential to deliver up to 24,000 homes and 55,000 jobs.

I hope this reply helps to clarify the situation for you. If you require further information on HS2 this is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/developing-a-new-high-speed-rail-network>

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Demetris
High Speed Rail Team