



Department for
Transport

From the Minister of State

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Sir David Rowlands
Chairman
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Dear David,

Objectives and Remit for HS2

Thank you for your letter of 13 February setting out your initial view of the objectives and remit for High Speed Two (HS2).

Let me first say that I am glad to see that HS2 has been established successfully, and that you are assembling such an impressive team. There is no more crucial long term transport infrastructure project being taken forward at present than HS2 and the Government attaches great importance to your work. The Secretary of State would be glad to receive your report by the end of the year.

The Government endorses the broad objectives and remit you have set out. We would like your report to include a route proposal – with any necessary options - from London to the West Midlands, with appropriate environmental, social and economic assessments. We would like this to be sufficiently developed to form the basis for a soundly based public consultation on a proposal, including options, for a London to West Midlands route during the course of 2010, should the Government decide to proceed.

We also wish you to provide advice on the potential development of a high speed line beyond the West Midlands, at the level of broad “corridors”. We would wish this work to consider in particular the potential for HS2 to extend to the conurbations of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, the North East and Scotland.

I should be grateful for your explicit recommendations on options for a terminus station or stations serving London. I would also ask that you consider possible options for providing an intermediate parkway station between London and the West Midlands. Any such station should not be detrimental to the overall business case, and should support regional economic and spatial strategies.

As you will be aware, the Department is working with BAA and Network Rail to consider conventional rail access to Heathrow, including schemes to improve connections from Heathrow to Reading and other stations on the Great Western Main Line. It will be important to ensure appropriate coordination between this work and the development of proposals by HS2.

Yours ever,

Andrew

ANDREW ADONIS