



31 December 2009

Dear Colleague,

HIGH SPEED 2 – NEWSLETTER, December 2009

I had expected to provide you in November with one further newsletter on HS2. However, I delayed this until now so that I could confirm delivery of our final report to Ministers. This has now happened.

As I am sure you will appreciate, the Government set HS2 an extremely challenging task to complete our report in less than 12 months. The report we have submitted provides a detailed assessment of the London to West Midlands route and possible extensions further north at a broader and less detailed level of assessment. This is underpinned by a vast amount of information, in particular substantial reports on the Appraisal of Sustainability and the route engineering work.

The report acknowledges the very constructive engagement we have had with a wide range of interested stakeholders from London right up to Scotland. I am very grateful to everyone who has contributed to our work, provided evidence for us to consider or shown a keen interest. It is a pleasure to have been involved in a project for which there has been so much enthusiasm.

Earlier this month Lord Adonis indicated how he would like to take HS2 forward assuming he agrees with our conclusions. The first step will be a Government response to our report by the end of March next year. It is likely our report would be published as part of this announcement. This would be followed by a public consultation in the Autumn of 2010 which will give everyone with an interest the opportunity to submit their views formally. In the meantime we will continue to report any key developments on our website. When our report is published, the website will contain the full suite of documentation which accompanies it.

Finally can I thank you for your support and interest in HS2 and wish you a successful 2010.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Rowlands'.

**SIR DAVID ROWLANDS
CHAIRMAN**



SUMMARY OF THE REMIT AND OBJECTIVES OF HIGH SPEED TWO

On 15 January 2009 the Secretary of State for Transport announced in 'Britain's Transport Infrastructure: High Speed Two', the setting up of a new company to look at a possible new railway line between London and the West Midlands.

HS2 was set up shortly after as a private company limited by guarantee. It is chaired by Sir David Rowlands and Alison Munro was seconded from the Department of Transport as Chief Executive. The rest of the HS2 team comprises further secondees from the DfT and from Network Rail

HS2's remit is to develop proposals for a new railway line from London to the West Midlands taking account of environmental, social and economic assessments. It will also provide advice to Ministers on the potential development of a high speed line beyond the West Midlands at the level of 'broad corridors, considering in particular the potent to extend to Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, the North East, and Scotland.

HS2 will make recommendations on options for a terminus station or stations serving London and possible options for an intermediate parkway station between London and the West Midlands. It will also provide a proposal for an interchange station between HS2, the Great Western Main Line and Crossrail with convenient access to Heathrow airport. HS2 will also provide suggested means of linking to HS1 and the existing rail network. .

HS2 will produce a confidential report to Ministers by the end of 2009 that should be sufficiently developed to form the basis for public consultation in 2010 should Ministers decide to take this project forward. The advice will also include financing and construction proposals as well as a proposition for how best to move through the planning process within an indicative outline timetable