



24 June 2010

HIGH SPEED 2 Ltd – NEW REMIT

Following the new Government's commitment to high speed rail, the Secretary of State has now confirmed in a new remit letter how he wants us to take our work forward.

The main addition to our work is to develop options for connecting the line with Heathrow, building on the work presented in our March report. We will be looking at both a line that goes directly through Heathrow, and also a spur or loop from the recommended route.

To do this, for each option we will make a comparative business case and environmental assessment, assess the case for an interchange at Old Oak Common, and give an indication of the service patterns for the airport route.

We will also be assessing the options for linking HS1 with HS2.

This is all in addition to the work on the London to West Midlands route set out in the previous Secretary of State's remit letter.

On the wider network we will be carrying out a high level assessment of the comparative business cases of a route extending from the West Midlands to Manchester and across the Pennines to Leeds, and also a network with separate legs from the West Midlands to Manchester and Leeds.

The work in this new remit will inform the Government's overall strategy and timetable for establishing a high speed rail network and its view on its preferred London to West Midlands route. We will be reporting to the Secretary of State on the additional work in the summer.

The Secretary of State has asked us to prepare for public consultation on the London to West Midlands route early in the New Year, and we will engage with local authorities along the route as our consultation plans develop.

You can find a copy of the remit letter on our website at: www.hs2.org.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian Briscoe'.

**SIR BRIAN BRISCOE
CHAIRMAN**