

**HOUSE OF COMMONS
NAMED DAY PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

For answer on: Wednesday 30 March 2011

Date answered: Wednesday 30 March 2011

DfT Ref: 3417 10/11

Andrea Leadsom (South Northamptonshire) Party: **CON**

262N To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he has taken to ensure that the High Speed Rail consultation roadshow locations are held (a) in accessible venues and (b) at times of the day likely to maximise public participation. **[49926]**

Philip Hammond

HS2 Ltd carefully considered the placement of events along and around the proposed line of route; 30 events are being held over 40 days, specifically including areas where HS2 Ltd was aware of significant interest in the proposals. Ease of accessibility from the surrounding areas was prioritised, so that the events could be attended by as wide a community as possible. Event locations were discussed and agreed with local councils.

HS2 Ltd has organised two types of event, according to the location and locally available facilities. Exhibitions are being held in areas with a large catchment area and where an adequately sized venue was available. Smaller trailer exhibitions are being held where it is not physically possible to hold an exhibition, or where there is likely to be a lower level of attendance. This aims to

provide reasonable equality of access to information between urban and rural locations.

To ensure that the road shows are available to a wide range of people with different work schedules and commitments, they are opening for 12 hours on weekdays, beginning at 8am and closing at 8pm. At weekends road shows will be open between 9am and 5pm.