

**HOUSE OF COMMONS
NAMED DAY PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION**

For answer on: Monday 26 July 2010

Date answered: Tuesday 27 July 2010

DfT Ref: 0747 10/11

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

679N To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the current economic climate on his plans for high speed rail. **[11336]**

Philip Hammond

[Holding answer: Monday 26 July 2010]

The Coalition Government has rejected further capital spending cuts as an easy, but wrong option for tackling the deficit. As the Chancellor said in his Emergency Budget speech – “Well-judged capital spending by government can help provide the new infrastructure our economy needs to compete in the modern world”.

The planned phased construction of a national high speed rail network means that it can be delivered in an affordable way. And over the long-term it is still expected that passenger demand will continue to grow strongly.