

ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Robert Goodwill MP
Minister of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minister House
76 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DR

9th February 2016

Ref: AL/TG/1602

Dear Robert,

I am very much looking forward to seeing you on the 8th March to discuss the exciting consensus in Towcester for the early delivery of the relief road and how we might move forwards quickly on this. However I am writing to you today with your HS2 hat on, further to the recent Department for Transport's response to the Select Committee's report, to ask if you could provide clarification on a few points for my constituents.

It may be useful if you had sight of my general remarks on both the DfT's response and the HS2 Resident Commissioner's third report: andrealeadsom.com/working-for-you/andrea's-blog/hs2-promoters-response-to-select-committee-report/824

Specifically:

- On page 4 of the response, the Promoter has committed *to reviewing all outstanding [NTS] cases on a regular basis* and will write *to any applicants for whom it has taken, or is likely to take, longer than 8 weeks for a decision to be provided*. Whilst it is promising that the average time taken for an applicant to receive a decision has been reduced to 6.7 weeks, clearly there are a number of cases which fall well outside this timescale. However I do find the wording confused as the Promoter states that the letter *will be sent within the 8 week period with a clear indication of the target date for having a decision sent to the applicant*. I query how a letter can be sent within the 8 week period if it has already taken longer than 8 weeks for a decision to be provided, and I would be grateful for your guidance here.
- On page 5 of the response, the Promoter notes the comments of the Select Committee that *particular rural locations that are severely affected by construction* may need to be addressed by way of special recommendation for certain cases. However there is no further mention of the rural locations in this section of the response and the Promoter focuses instead upon areas proximate to urban construction in particular Camden. I have previously written to the Chair of the HS2 Select Committee, Robert Syms MP,

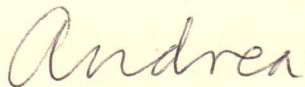
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

to flag that there are residents in rural locations in South Northamptonshire who are frustrated by HS2 Ltd's lack of engagement. Could the DfT provide further reassurances to my constituents, particularly in hamlets such as Radstone, that there will be special recommendations for these areas that will be severely affected by construction?

- On page 13 in the final paragraph of the response, the Promoter writes that the Parliamentary Ombudsman *already has the ability and scope of function to investigate and offer remedy to complainants with respect to the application of the Promoter's discretionary compensation policy*. However this is contrary to the experience of several constituents and I would be most grateful if the DfT could confirm that this is the case? In particular one constituent has been told by the PHSO that the EHS scheme, run by HS2 Ltd, is not a statutory requirement and they have no mechanism for compensating past losses.

I look forward to your response and please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can provide further detail on any of the above points.

With best wishes,



Andrea Leadsom MP
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire