



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Martin Frobisher
Route Managing Director
Network Rail
1 Eversholt Street
London
NW1 2DN

1st December 2016

Ref: AL/TG/1612

Dear Mr Frobisher

It was a pleasure to meet you, Andrea Haynes, and Paul Street yesterday, and to have the opportunity to understand more about Network Rail's role in the planning application process for the two proposed strategic rail freight interchanges in my constituency, namely Rail Central (near Blisworth) and Roxhill's Northampton Gateway (near Roade).

My constituents are very supportive of the Government's policy to reduce the volume of freight on our roads, which will deliver huge benefits nationally. It is also understood by those affected by the two proposals that freight capacity on the West Coast Main Line (South) is at a premium, and it is reassuring to have it confirmed in our meeting that Network Rail is not a promoter of either scheme, despite the actions of the developers of Rail Central in using your logo on headed paper to promote a property bond.


My constituents will be very much reassured that this was not done with your approval, and that you have followed it up with Ashfield Land. If you could send me a copy of the letter that you have sent out confirming this, I should be most grateful. I would be happy to publish this on my website for the avoidance of doubt, if you feel it would be useful.

There is a very active and well-organised local action group that is fully engaged with the Rail Central proposals, and they have asked if I could ensure that you had sight of some technical information they have put together with the assistance of Andrew Gough, Associate Professor of Logistics at the University of Northampton. They, and I, would be most grateful if you could consider the points that they have raised and provide them, through me, with a response.

These are:

- a letter from Mark Redding on behalf of Stop Rail Central regarding Rail Central, Northampton Gateway and Network Rail;
- a briefing note from Mark Redding on behalf of Stop Rail Central regarding their concerns over the NSIP process as it relates to SRFIs;
- an Annex to the briefing note from Mark Redding on behalf of Stop Rail Central.

Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire



I shall be writing separately to Ashfield Land to ensure that they are aware of the continuing concerns that local residents have over their actions, and the mistrust that their inclusion of your logo in their letter via Hamer Associates has generated.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Andrea Leadsom

The Rt Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

Cc: Mark Redding | Director | Stop Rail Central
Andrew Gough | Associate Professor of Logistics | University of Northampton
Susannah Guest | Senior Planning Officer | The Planning Inspectorate

[Enc.]