

THE RT HON. ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon. Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Ref: AL/TG/1909

3rd September 2019

Dear Grant,

Further to your written statement to Parliament earlier today, several of my constituents have been in touch with me to ask about the impact of the recommended delay to Phase One from 2026 to possibly 2031. Specifically, they are concerned about how this will impact on the business case for the proposed Northampton Gateway Strategic Rail Freight Interchange in my constituency.

As you know, the Planning Inspectorate has made its recommendation to you on whether to grant or not grant a Development Consent Order for the Northampton Gateway SRFI, and this is currently with you for consideration.

Whilst I appreciate that you are unable to comment on any specific application with you for DCO review, my constituents have asked if you will bear in mind that the developer's proposal, and business case, is predicated upon capacity being made available for additional freight paths on the West Coast Main Line through the new dedicated HS2 line.

Should the delivery of HS2 be delayed (or, indeed, cancelled following the Oakervee Review), then this would have a substantial impact on the business case for Northampton Gateway, meaning fewer available freight paths and greatly increased road-based freight movements.

My constituents should be grateful if you could consider this point when making your decision on the DCO.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrea'.

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

Cc: Stop Northampton Gateway; Stop Rail Central

Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire