



The Rt Hon. Andrew Leadsom MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Ms Leadsom,

Re: Rail Central & Northampton Gateway SRFIs

Thank you for your further letter.

I appreciate these two proposals are generating significant interest in your constituency and I want to be transparent about our involvement in this work.

There are number of potential developments, including Rail Central and Northampton Gateway, who want to connect to the 'Northampton loop' on the West Coast Main line (WCML). Our view is that not every proposal can safely connect to this stretch of the railway due to high levels of existing traffic. To explain this further, the WCML is the busiest mixed-use railway in Europe, which means there is limited space for new train services.

Thanks to the hard work of my maintenance teams, it is currently performing very well. Any significant increase in trains could affect the punctuality of services and lead to additional running costs.

However as a business, we want the railway to play its part in helping stimulate economic growth. This means that where it is practicably possible, we work with the private sector to resolve engineering and capacity issues.

To date, we have not received any information from the developers to suggest there is spare freight capacity on the Northampton loop. We are currently determining whether this is the case by carrying out a study along this section. This work is being funded by the two developers and the other interested parties.

As the study is a commercial agreement between us and the developers, it is legally and commercially sensitive. Therefore, we are unable to share this information with you at present. But its findings will be used to inform our response to any Development Control Order and will be publically available at that time.

In terms of our current discussions with the developers, we are reviewing their draft 'Client Requirement Documents'. The next step is to agree commercial terms to fund GRIP 1-2 feasibility studies for each scheme. Therefore, neither project has formally started the GRIP process.



Finally, your opinion of our work matters to me, which is why I want to keep you regularly updated. I have asked my Public Affairs Manager to make contact with your office to set up a new meeting date.

I hope this response is helpful and if you need more information please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

M. J. Frobisher

Martin Frobisher
Route Managing Director
London and North Western route