

# ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

27<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Ref: AL/TG/1703

## **Re: Rail Central & Northampton Gateway SRFIs**

Dear Mr Frobisher,

When we met at the end of last year, you mentioned that Network Rail thought that there might not be enough track paths for additional freight movements on the West Coast Main Line prior to the timetabled opening of HS2 Phase One in 2026, and that this would obviously be a consideration for you in your comments as a statutory consultee on any proposed SRFI in our local area. Is this still the case? I understand from the developers that they are under the impression that there is currently freight capacity to support the development of either Northampton Gateway or Rail Central, and this has been supported by analysis provided by their independent rail consultants.

Additionally, I am told by the local action group that Network Rail had previously mentioned to them that you would be undertaking a capacity study on the above yourselves. Is this an all-encompassing study across your entire network or locally-specific to this stretch of the WCML? I should be grateful if you could let me know what stage you are at with this, if it is proceeding, and when you expect to be able to publish the results.

Finally, the local action group has said that they understand both developers (Ashfield Land and Roxhill) have only recently submitted their Client Requirements Document, but are also being told that one or both developers have progressed to GRIP Stage 2 – Feasibility. Could you clarify this for me?

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Leadsom".

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

*Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire*