

THE RT. HON. ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr James Digby  
Director  
Ashfield Land  
St. Catherine's Court  
Berkeley Place  
Clifton  
Bristol  
BS8 1BQ

13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Ref: AL/TG/1711

Dear Mr Digby,

I understand that the contracts for the capacity study on the Northampton Loop Line, jointly funded by yourselves and Roxhill, were signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and the report has been issued to both developers for use as part of your submission to the Planning Inspectorate. This report does not take into consideration the remaining sections of the West Coast Main Line, which has been made clear to you, by Network Rail and others, is nearing capacity.

At our meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> September, I was left with the impression that the contracts had not yet been signed. Could you clarify on this point?

I also understand that Ashfield Land is still working on its GRIP feasibility study (Stage 2 of the Governance for Railway Investment Projects process, identifying if the proposal can be delivered economically and in line with current Network Rail proposals/strategy). Can I ask when you expect this to be completed?

Finally, my understanding is that any considerations of feasibility and capacity have to be within the parameters of current performance levels and freight path availability only. Neither Rail Central nor Northampton Gateway can rely upon future capacity theoretically made available once HS2 Phase 1 is operational, and it is also my understanding that PINS would not make a recommendation of a Development Consent Order on the basis of speculative futurity.

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

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