



Department
for Transport

The Rt. Hon, the Lord Fowler
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: Lord.Ahmad_PUSS@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Norman.

Due to the limited time remaining at the end of the Second Reading of the High Speed Rail (London to West Midlands) Bill, I was unable to respond to many of the points raised during the debate. I therefore write to outline my response to your comments where I was unable to do so during the debate itself.

You asked about general Government investment in transport other than HS2. We are increasing the level of investment in transport by 50% by 2020. We will work with the newly established National Infrastructure Commission to deliver the transport schemes in the National Infrastructure Plan. We will also implement the first Road Investment Strategy, with £15 billion of projects underway by 2021, and create a national roads fund by financial year 2020/2021, to administer all Vehicle Excise Duty generated in England and fund our road investment strategies.

It is important to stress that HS2 will not be a separate, standalone railway. It will be the new backbone of our national rail network. We will invest £38 billion in our railway network in the 5 years to 2019, including electrification of the Great Western, TransPennine, and Midland Main Lines.

I hope this is helpful and answers your question sufficiently.

To conclude, I welcome your invitation for me to accompany you on the District Line for a journey to Wimbledon. That is something I would be very keen to do and so, if you would like to arrange a suitable date, please do contact my Diary Secretary, Ellen Gyampoh on 0207 944 4484 or ellen.gyampoh@dft.gsi.gov.uk.

A copy of this letter has been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

LORD AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON